



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17 1984

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THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Collecting art
The art of what to buy –
if you have the money

Weekend breaks
From Budapest (below)
to Bangor: how to get the
best from a weekend break



Old and new
Values looks at modern
day Victorian wallpapers

Rugby views
David Hands previews
England against Ireland
and Gerald Davies on
Wales against France

BBC backs
Panorama
allegations

The BBC stood by the *Panorama* programme on alleged links between Conservative MPs and right-wing extremists. A statement issued after a meeting between the BBC and Conservative Party leaders said that the corporation remained convinced that the programme was well-founded and the party remained convinced it was not

Shore attack

Mr Peter Shore accused the Prime Minister of evasion after further exchanges over her son's role in the Oman university contract. Page 2

Secret trial

Almost the entire trial of Michael Bettaney, the MI5 officer on spying charges, will be held in camera. The case is expected to last eight days. Page 3

Levy review

The TUC is asking unions to review the system where members pay a levy to the Labour Party, as part of a code agreed with the Government. Page 2

Solvent ban

France is to ban sales of Trichlorethylene solvent to people under 18 in a campaign against drug abuse. About 20 young people died from glue and solvent sniffing last year. Page 7

Gulf offensive

Iran claims to have beaten off four separate Iraqi counter-attacks in the escalating Gulf war, but Iraq says the Iranians are in retreat. Page 6

Rebate plea

Britain is seeking an extra session of the European Parliament to try to free its delayed £457m budget rebate before March 31. Page 7

Press warning

Journalists who encourage others to break the law for journalism purposes will be liable for prosecution in future, the Attorney General told the Commons. Page 2

Honda hint

Honda is once again looking at the possibility of setting up a motorcycle manufacturing plant in Britain, perhaps in five or six years. Page 15

Mortgage hope

The Halifax Building Society says it may break ranks with other building societies and cut its mortgage rate in April, if it considers conditions right. Page 15

Campbell out

Illness has ruled Ollie Campbell out of Ireland's rugby team to play England at Twickenham tomorrow. His place will be taken by Tony Ward. Page 2

Leader page 13

Letters: On union rights, from Lord Wedderburn of Charlton; GCHQ, from Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP; Andropov and press, from Miss Olga Franklin, and Mr Douglas-Hamilton.

Leading articles: Public spending: Namibia and Angola; Mr Shore and Mrs Thatcher; Features, pages 10, 11, 12

Bernard Levin on organ transplants: the secret build-up to the Grenada invasion; spectrum on fifth generation computers; Friday page meets a nostalgic author. Obituary, page 14

Ethel Merman, Philippe Ariès.

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Tight rein on public spending paves way for lower taxes

- The public spending White Paper, with its plans for tight spending curbs, paves the way for a series of tax-cutting budgets
- In real terms, the level of public expenditure is expected to remain broadly unchanged until 1986-87, allowing tax cuts as the economy grows
- Cuts in lending to state industries and in council spending will offset big rises in the defence, health, and social security budgets
- Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, criticized the White Paper severely

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The Government paved the way yesterday for a series of tax-cutting budgets with the publication of its public spending plans showing tight curbs on spending over the next three years.

Between now and 1986-87, the level of public expenditure is expected to remain broadly unchanged after allowing for inflation, which ministers believe will leave room for tax cuts as the economy grows.

The prospects for next month's budget also look more promising. Less overspending than expected this year and a big reserve for unforeseen contingencies next year are likely to increase the scope for Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to cut taxes or further reduce borrowing.

The public spending White Paper disclosed that total spending in the 1983-84 financial year is expected to be £120.3bn, £700m more than planned last year but a good deal less than many in the City had feared. Spending in 1984-85 is planned to rise by 5 per cent to £126.4bn, in line with expected inflation.

In the two following years the White Paper indicates that spending is expected to increase by 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 to £132.1bn and by 3.5 per cent in 1986-87 to £136.7bn.

The price assumptions for these years are not published until the Budget, but the figures imply an ambitious inflation target of about 4 per cent in 1985-86, declining in 1986-87, if prices rise more quickly than that, an unchanged level of spending in cash terms will mean a squeeze in the amount of goods and services provided.

The overall picture of stable real spending disguises big changes in individual programmes, and has been helped by the inclusion of assets sales of £2bn a year over the next three years, a practice sharply criticized on Wednesday by the all-party Treasury select committee of MPs.

Big increases in the budgets for defence, health, and social security (which now accounts for more than a quarter of all public spending) will be offset by cuts in lending to state industries, and in local authority spending, including housing and education.

British four on Oscar short list

From Ivor Davis Hollywood

Four British Actors, Michael Caine, Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Tom Conti, will battle it out with the American Robert Duvall for this year's Oscar for best actor in the Academy Awards to be presented on April 9.

Not for 20 years have British screen stars so dominated the field. Michael Caine, aged 50, was nominated for his role as the boozey professor of English teaching fellow Briton Julie Walters, who was nominated for best actress, the finer points of literature in *Educating Rita*.

Albert Finney's nomination was for his role in *The Dresser*, as was Tom Courtenay's. Tom Conti was for playing Cowan McGland, in *Reuben Reuben*. They all face stiff opposition, however from Robert Duvall in *Tender Mercies*.

Lebanese officials privately dismissed reports from Washington that a new peace plan had been agreed by Mr Gemayel that would immediately replace departing Multinational Force troops with UN soldiers.

The American government apparently accepted Mr Gemayel's word that such a plan, supported by the Saudis and the Syrians, was feasible. The last time British actors took four of the five best actor nominations was in 1964. Rex Harrison won for *My Fair Lady* against Peter O'Toole and Richard Burton in *Becket* and Peter Sellers in *Dr Strangelove*.

Jodie Foster faces the firm favourite, Shirley MacLaine, for *Terms of Endearment* and her co-star, Debra Winger, as well as Meryl Streep for *Silkwood* and Jane Alexander for *Testament*.

The British picture *The Dresser* picked up five nominations including best film, and best director for Peter Yates. Yates is up against Ingmar Bergman for *Funny and Alexander*, Mike Nichols for *Silkwood*, the Australian Bruce Beresford for *Tender Mercies*, and James Brooks for *Terms of Endearment*.

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Muslim militias advance on Gemayel's last stronghold

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The Lebanese Army withdrew the broken remnants of its Fourth Brigade by sea to East Beirut yesterday, as Druze and Shia Muslim militias threatened to break through the Government Army's last position in the mountains above the capital and advance towards the suburb of Baabda, where the President has his palace.

President Gemayel is believed to have been told through intermediaries yesterday that, if he immediately abrogated the unofficial peace treaty with Israel and instituted reforms, both the druze and Shia militias would be prepared to restart negotiations.

Last night, however, Christian units of the Lebanese Army were planning new defence lines on the edge of East Beirut itself in preparation for another attack.

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Film too dreadful to screen

Evidence of village massacre

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

In their advance southwards from Beirut yesterday, Druze militiamen discovered horrifying evidence of the massacre of Druze villagers – apparently by the Christian Phalange – that took place five months ago when the Israelis hurriedly withdrew their army from the Chouf mountains.

The Druze have found dozens of bodies of men, women and children – most of them in an advanced state of decomposition – in and around the village of Kfar Matta, 15 miles south east of the capital.

Blaming both the Phalange and the Lebanese Army for the slaughter, the Druze allowed an American television crew into the village yesterday afternoon. Much of the film they took is too dreadful to show on television.

They found the corpses of women and children in fields around Kfar Matta, skeletons lying in the streets of the village and a whole roomful of corpses upon which lay the badly



Downhill to the top: Bill Johnson, of the United States, in only his third season in Europe, races to a downhill gold medal in the Winter Olympic Games at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, took the silver medal

Reports, page 20

Ceasefire move in Angola war

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Angolan and South African negotiators, meeting in Lusaka with the United States as mediator, announced joint steps to establish an effective ceasefire in their border war, which could lead to a wider peace settlement and independence for Namibia.

United States officials said American observers could be sent, if requested, to monitor the disengagement of forces. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, said on Wednesday that this disengagement was under way. Commission set up, page 6

Leading article, page 15

Kremlin struggle for power goes on

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Pravda on Tuesday, an observer said. "But the old guard is apparently afraid of Gorbachev's influence and afraid the younger generation will stage some kind of coup, forcing Chernenko out of office."

Yesterday's *Pravda* reported Mr Chernenko's meetings with Dr Castro, Senior Ortega of Nicaragua, Mr Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan and Mr Pierre Trudeau of Canada on its front page, but did not carry the stamp of a new personality.

"There is not yet any sense of a Chernenko era opening up," one diplomat said.

Mr Gorbachov has been prominent on television since Mr Chernenko took over, and was shown standing close to the new party leader both at President Andropov's lying in state and at the funeral on Red Square. This would appear to make him an effective heir apparent, representing the younger generation of Politburo members which also includes Mr Grigory Romanov, aged 61, Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, aged 57, and Mr Gédir Aliyev, aged 60. Some members of the old guard resent the implication that Mr Gorbachov will shortly take over from the aging and ailing Mr Chernenko, however, and are anxious to suppress the suggestion that he is waiting in the wings.

"There would have been no harm in mentioning this in

Leadership race, page 7

Letters, page 13

Thatcher still firm on GCHQ

By David Felton Labour Correspondent

Civil Service unions reacted angrily last night to the Prime Minister's apparent rejection in the Commons of the compromise proposals to avoid a union ban at GCHQ which they had put forward in secret talks with Cabinet officials.

Leaders of the nine unions yesterday approved a paper later sent to Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet, in which they set out in detail their proposals. One official said: "We have gone as far as we can."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons that the ban on union membership was the only effective guarantee of national security.

"I have yet to see anything that satisfies me that the Government's objectives can be reached by any other method than that which the Government has laid out."

Mrs Thatcher did say, however, that her offer to meet the unions again stood.

The unions received strong support at a TUC rally last night from Mr James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, who said that during his five years as Foreign Secretary and then Prime Minister, the United States had more than once expressed its admiration for the work of the Cheltenham communications base.

"I must add that during my period of office Cheltenham gave me no reason to be concerned that trade union membership would provoke a conflict of loyalties," Mr Callaghan said.

It appeared last night that the Government's view that union membership at Cheltenham

Continued on back page, col 8

Record 17 to stand in poll

From Anthony Bevins Chesterfield

A record 17 candidates are in the running for the Chesterfield by-election on March 1. At the close of nominations yesterday the returning officer disclosed that the contest would exceed last year's Southwark, Birmingham record by one candidate.

The full list of those nominated is:

Miss Helen Ancombe, of Newbury, Death Off Roads; Freight On Rail;

Mr Jitendra Nirmal Bardwaj, of Boydon, near Hertford, Yoga and Meditation;

Mr Anthony Neil Wedgwood Bean, of London, Labour;

Mr David Edward Bentley, of Grindelstead, Derbyshire, Four-Wheel Drive Hatchback Road Safety;

Mr Nicholas Henry Bourne, of London, Conservative;

MI5 officer's lawyers lose challenge to secret hearing

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The public and the press are to be excluded from almost the entire trial of Michael Bettaney, the MI5 officer facing espionage charges, the Central Criminal Court decided in camera yesterday.

When Mr Bettaney, aged 33, of Coulsdon, Surrey, starts his trial on April 10 with not guilty pleas, the jury will be sworn in court, number one. The hearing, listed to take practice trial directions, began in chambers and was then moved into camera.

Mr Bettaney was brought from Brixton prison for the hearing. He was represented in court by Mr Michael Mansfield QC and Mr Kenneth Richardson appeared for the Crown. Sir John Westcott, from the Special Branch, was also in court.

The application of in camera proceedings so widely is likely to cause concern in legal circles.



Mr Bettaney: Facing six charges.

There is no means of appeal for the defence until the case has been completed.

Mr Bettaney faces a total of six charges under the Official Secrets Acts of 1911 and 1920. It is alleged that he passed on details of British assessments of the Soviet Union's intelligence networks in Britain, details of the expulsion of three Russians, and prepared other material to hand over to the Russians in 1983.

It is unusual for a defendant in such a case to plead not guilty but where it has happened in recent years, such as in the trial of Professor Hugh Hamilton in 1982, the court went into camera for only part of the case.

In cases where the accused have pleaded guilty, such as Geoffrey Prime, part of the hearings were heard in camera. The periods have covered areas such as an assessment of the damage done to national security, in Security Service, Special Intelligence Service, and MI6 witnesses.

After the hearing yesterday a spokesman for the DPP said he was unable to comment on what had happened at the hearing or the potential use of the in camera practice.

The trial is expected to last eight working days and all the evidence, witnesses, the judge's summing up, and much of counsel's speeches will be behind closed doors.

Mr Grant said the use of the in-camera process to such an extent was unprecedented and had been agreed by the judge after an application by Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions. Other decisions had also been taken.

Mr Grant said that defence

wouldn't show any identification. He kept trying to hang up his coat and leave his briefcase. He hadn't got an invitation card and I said that I was sorry but he had to leave."

The man, wearing a smart grey suit, soon became violent and the police were called. One policeman was punched in the face and three officers lost their helmets as the man was dragged struggling and protesting from the front foyer and down the street to a police van. When he reached the van five policemen were restraining him.

The Prince, who arrived moments after the man was taken to Bow Street police station, was informed later of the incident.

Man rescued by helicopter after forest cleared

A young forestry worker who was seriously injured when a tractor he was driving toppled over on a steep hill and rolled twice before he was thrown clear, was rescued by helicopter when his workmates cleared a patch of dense woodland to create a landing space.

Help was summoned from a farmhouse, but the forest at Halden Belvedere, near Dunchidcock, Devon, was so thick that ambulances could not find them.

A police helicopter found the men but could not land. However, the helicopter landed a mile away and a doctor reached Mr Philip England, aged 20. The site was then cleared and the helicopter landed to collect Mr England.

Mr Wilf Dawson, the trust's director, tried to find out who he was. "He wouldn't speak; he

wouldn't show any identification. He kept trying to hang up his coat and leave his briefcase. He hadn't got an invitation card and I said that I was sorry but he had to leave."

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Allegations that the Tramp nightclub in the West End of London was a disreputable establishment patronized by vulgar and low-grade people won its owners and manager "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday.

The allegations appeared in the In Town column of *The Standard* newspaper in January and February.

The column's editor, Richard Compton Miller, had said the club was patronized by models that never model, actresses that never act, and "tarty little pieces". He also made an offensive reference to the manager, Mr John Gold.

Mr Richard Rampion for Mr Gold and the owners, Coney Island Ltd, told Mr Justice

Comyn they had been proved

of libel's reputation.

Council drive on rogue landlords 'succeeding'

Westminster City Council's campaign against bad landlords has met with considerable success, it was disclosed yesterday.

On Tuesday AMK (Property Management) became the first company to be convicted under the Protection From Eviction Act, 1977, when it was found guilty of unlawful harassment.

Southwark Crown Court was told that elderly residents at an apartment block in Mayfair were forced to put up with constant drilling, walls being knocked down, windows smashed, and the "accidental" flooding of their homes. AMK was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £21,500 prosecution costs. Defence costs are expected to exceed £100,000.

Mr Simon Mabey a councilor, said the authority was delighted with the result of the trial and gave a warning to "rogue landlords". He added: "We are even more determined to bring to task those who think they can bully and harass tenants just to make quick profits."

Conditions were made unbearable at Fountain House, Park Lane, by the property company in an attempt to persuade tenants to leave during a campaign of harassment between 1980 and March, 1982.

The court was told that the

company, financed by Shaikh Abdul Khoja, who is said to own 60 companies in Britain, could make up to £7m profit from the sale of all the apartments. Empty flats are being sold for between £200,000 and £750,000.

The two men who previously ran the company on behalf of the Shaikh, Mr Andrew Lawson and Mr Bruce Harlow, have since resigned. They both denied in court that AMK had deliberately set out to evict tenants by making their lives a misery.

One tenant, Mrs Nausheen Spiegel, a dressmaker in her sixties, kept a diary of the years of misery she went through after AMK bought the property in 1979. She told the court how the lights were constantly going out, the water supply was cut off for more than a month, her hallway was piled high with rubble and her workshop was destroyed by the builders.

Mr Spiegel, who has lived in her flat for 26 years, described how she could not hold a conversation or use the telephone because of the constant noise.

She said: "From early morning and long after I returned from work they were drilling. The vibrations caused ornaments and perfumes to crash to the ground day after day.

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Benjie Leggate, aged six, with his pony Doughnut, and Jason, a Great Dane. (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

BBC wins news awards

Once a year the Leggate family of Gordon in Berwick receives funds for such local charities as the Edinburgh Eye Pavilion.

The last effort, a 20-mile sponsored horseback ride by people who had not ridden for 10 years, raised £4,000. Benjie Leggate, aged six, raised £200 with his sister Kate, aged nine, his pony Doughnut and a friend's Great Dane called Jason.

Benjie's father, Mr Peter Leggate, said yesterday: "We were very happy with the proceeds but if anyone wants to send us any more donations we would be happy to have them".

Judge settles £163,000 claim

Princess Anne left Rabat for The Gambia on the second stage of her tour of three African countries as president of the Save the Children fund

Riders bring in £4,000 for charity

Young offenders may be receiving heavier sentences than they deserve because of the use of school reports in juvenile court proceedings, according to a report published today by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

It says that school reports sometimes contain damaging and unsubstantiated allegations of criminal behaviour and pejorative remarks that would never be allowed in an adult court.

The examples it cites include:

"Jimmy is a cancer to the student body. If he didn't commit this offence, then someone else in his family did";

"this boy is a born liar"; and

"this boy is big, black and smelly".

A working party of the association found that such school reports were often kept secret from parents, children, and even lawyers.

Court use of school reports criticized

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Optic laser technique aids heart-risk cases

Doctors at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, are developing the use of lasers to reduce the risk of serious heart disease. They are experimenting with fibre optic laser thread that guides the laser beam along a congested artery and destroys any cholesterol deposits on its way.

The group is led by Dr Henry Dargie, a cardiologist and Dr Alexander Elliott, a nuclear physicist. They are assessing the side-effects that may arise from passing laser beams along a living artery. If the experimental programme succeeds, the technique may be used on a patient later this year.

Dr Elliott claimed yesterday that Glasgow was leading the field in Britain in the development of the technique. He thought it could become routine surgery in two or three years. The team believes it was used

to treat a patient in France 18 weeks ago. It is hoped that people suffering the early stages of angina could benefit from the treatment.

Dr Elliott added: "I would emphasize, it is no alternative keeping weight down, exercising and not smoking. They are still the best ways of combating heart disease."

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The youth underwent emergency surgery to remove a bullet from his brain and both he and the shopowner, Mr Brian Winterton, aged 49, were said to be in serious condition last night.

Two policemen, who had been alerted to the first shooting and saw a youth running towards them in the city centre, chased him after he fired at them.

Mr Russell Drewett, a building worker, said he saw the youth fire at the police and then run into a side street.

"He came running up the hill obviously in a panic. He fiddled with his gun, then put it to his face and there was a shot and he slumped to the ground."

Another brawler, Mr Adrian Snook, said "it looked as if the bullet went through his mouth and came out behind his ear."

The police have ruled out robbery as the motive for shooting the shopowner and believe it may have started with a dispute over a gun deal.

Mr Snook was presented with a £500 bravery award by the chairman of the Post Office, Mr Ron Dearin, in London yesterday.

Mr Sandhu, of Chelsea Road, Bristol, said that the raiders burst in at 3.30 am

morning last last May.

Youth opens fire on police

By John Witherow

A youth aged 18 opened fire on police in Bristol yesterday and then shot himself in the head in front of dozens of bystanders near the city centre.

The shooting happened minutes after the owner of a gunshop in Perry Road was shot twice in the stomach with a 9mm pistol.

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Raiders flee sword duel

A sub-postmaster, Mr Dildar Sandhu, described yesterday how he fought off two masked raiders armed with a sword and a dagger.

Mr Sandhu, aged 53, a Sikh, who trained in swordsmanship as a child, snapped off a piece of sword blade to fence with one intruder. After a desperate duel they fled.

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Brave postmaster: Mr Dildar Sandhu with replica sword

Raiders flee sword duel

"One put a sword against my throat. I said: 'What do you want?' They said: 'We want money.' These words were encouraging because I thought: 'They are after money, not my life.'

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Ban on trade unions the only guarantee

GCHQ DISPUTE

The Government remained convinced that banning trade union membership at the Cheltenham communications headquarters was the only effective guarantee to meet the Government's objectives. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister said during her first question time in the Commons since returning from Russia.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, joined in the laughter when, as he sat down after questioning Mrs Thatcher about her attitude to GCHQ, several Conservative backbench MPs held up large sheets of paper bearing the figures 0.1. This was a rejoinder to Mr Kinnock's comment when he returned to Britain yesterday that he had given himself 5.9 out of 6 for his performance during his visit to the United States.

Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, called for order, commenting firmly laughter. He is not yet being televised.

There was also laughter when Mr Kinnock said he would give the Prime Minister, who had been speaking with a hoarse voice, the name of a good lozenge. Mr John Biffen, leader of the House, announced that MPs will debate GCHQ issues on Monday, February 27.

Mrs Geoffrey Robinson (Coventry North West, Lab) began by asking Mrs Thatcher if she had read the unanimous all-party select committee report on the trade union situation at GCHQ.

The reckless bungling by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary (he said) has caused enormous and unnecessary damage to the international standing of our country and system of employees.

The six point programme in the recommendations of the report represents a reasoned and constructive basis for an agreement to be reached.

Present law defers rather than deters

DIVORCE BILL

The objectives of the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill were to end the hollow shell of a marriage which had broken down to be dissolved with the minimum of distress, bitterness and humiliation balanced against a respect for the institution of marriage. Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said in the Commons.

The Bill proposes that a court faced with a financial application after a divorce should consider in every case whether it would be appropriate to make an order finally terminating the parties' obligation to one another, either at once or after a period of adjustment. This is the main proposal of the bill.

It also reduces the three year period before a divorce is permissible to one year and provides for financial relief or related powers in matrimonial and other family proceedings.

He said the reduction from three years to one was designed to avoid the harm caused by the longer period which encouraged adultery and the birth of illegitimate children when a marriage broke down within a short period.

The Bill removed at the same time the discretionary exceptions to the three year rule of exceptional hardship, adultery and desertion, restricted in a sensible resolution of proceedings not being achieved and allegations that could be harmful to young children. Because the outcome of an applicant on such grounds was unpredictable, couples were advised against it even in extreme cases.

The effect of the present rule tended to deter rather than deter divorce.

It was an illusion, or rather a delusion, to believe it possible to make a marriage endure when it had broken down, by imposing a temporary bar.

Some commentators favoured the consideration of a new law in Scotland. This would make it possible to marry today and present a petition for divorce tomorrow.

If we were starting with a clean slate (he said) then this might be the position to follow. But we are following the Law Commission's recommendation that some form of restriction is needed to deter irresponsible or child marriages and act as a buttress to help a marriage through difficult early days.

There would continue to be only one ground for divorce, an irretrievable breakdown by establishing adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

There were interruptions from MPs as Mrs Robinson spoke and The Speaker told MPs: The Prime Minister is evidently suffering from a cold and I hope the House will have a consideration.

Mrs Thatcher: I note that the committee endorsed the Government's objectives but take a different view of how to achieve them.

The committee is entitled to its views but we remain convinced that the Government's approach provides the only effective guarantee to meet those objectives.

Intelligence agencies have been treated differently by successive governments.

Mr Kinnock began: Can I sympathise with the Prime Minister with her throat difficulty. I promise privately to offer the name of a very good lozenge which I have found to be efficacious.

He told Mrs Thatcher: On the vexed subject of GCHQ, the Civil Service unions have offered firm guarantees against disruption and they will be reaffirmed at the forthcoming meeting with the Prime Minister.

The select committee produced not only a constructive but a detailed report. In the light of these developments, we do not realize that failure to adopt a course like the one suggested by the select committee would be to abandon fair play and common sense and to neglect the national interest?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government will consider the select committee report but remains convinced that the decisions announced on January 25 remain the only effective guarantee of our objectives, which the committee endorsed.

Mrs Kinnock: Clearly they are not the only effective guarantees. Does Mrs Thatcher think that anybody in the trade unions or in the select committee wanted any less than to safeguard properly the security of this country?

Will she not realize for once that there are alternative courses of

wisdom and that they can be secured by the processes of democracy and do not require to be made under the duress that she is inflicting at GCHQ?

Mrs Thatcher repeated that the committee had endorsed the objectives.

It said (she continued) that Government had to be satisfied that those objectives could be reached and I have yet to see anything which satisfies me (Labour interruptions) as head of the Government and therefore responsible for security services, that those objectives can be reached by any other method than that which the Government has laid down.

I have said I would see the unions again and I shall.

Mr John Gorst (Hendon North, Cr) Will she give an assurance that there are contingency plans made to meet the Government rather than trade union inspired disruption that could well result after March 1 if there is no agreement on either the basis of the select committee's report or her own plans?

Mrs Thatcher: As one of the problems has been the selective disruption from 1979 to 1981 and as everyone is interested in keeping security, I trust there will be no disruption.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C) Is it not remarkable that during all of the many exchanges which have taken place across the floor of the House on GCHQ since January 25, not a single member on any of the Opposition benches has uttered a word of condemnation of the industrial activity which disrupted activities there, including strikes which took place between February and April 1979, when Dr David Owen had direct ministerial responsibility for these matters?

Mrs Thatcher: It is quite true that GCHQ was specially targeted for disruption because those who targeted it in the Civil Service unions knew that disruption was wrong in principle to have to opt out of paying the trade union levy?

Thatcher: Hoarse voice

national interest. I shall be very grateful if Opposition MPs would condemn that action, if only in retrospect.

● During exchanges following the announcement that there would be a debate on GCHQ on Monday, February 27, MPs demanded that there should be an opportunity to vote on the issue rather than merely discussing it on the motion to adjourn.

Mr Kinnock asked whether the debate would be on the motion to adjourn or on a Government motion. He said that the type of debate would make a difference to the kind of response in the House.

Mr Biffen, Lord President of the Council, said the form of the motion would be considered through the usual channels between the parties, but clearly the report of the Select Committee on Employment would be a feature of the debate.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab) a former Home

Kimcock: Rated only 0.1

Secretary, surely we are not going to have a debate on the adjournment about GCHQ. There have been a report of a select committee, statements from Number 10, statements outside this House has to have a view, I hope there will be a vote a week next Monday.

Mr Biffen: I understand that point. It is a matter for consideration through the usual channels.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton, South, SDP) Will Mr Biffen give a commitment that the Government, and the Prime Minister's comments today will not make up its mind before the debate.

If the Government is not prepared to budge on this, flying in the face of unprecedented moves by the unions to try to accommodate the Government, they will be dragging their feet-cooperation at GCHQ is the only means of achieving the goals of the trade unions in this matter.

Mr Biffen: I am not going to argue on the content of policy.

Deal on political levy

Legislation on the payment of trade union political levies will only be necessary if the agreement worked out with the TUC fails in practice.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons:

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) asked: Has she abandoned her previously expressed view that it is wrong in principle to have to opt out of paying the trade union levy?

Mrs Thatcher: We have not. He will find in our manifesto, which won a rather considerable majority, we said we would try to reach voluntary agreement with the trade unions.

The Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Tom King) believes that it has reached such agreement with the TUC. If that agreement is effective, then that will be the end of the matter. If, in practice, that agreement is not effective, then we shall have to legislate.

be respected, even by the Home Secretary and the authorities?

Mr Biffen: He is right in drawing attention to the question of civil liberties. It is for that reason that the warrant under which Mr Campbell's premises were searched was issued by the court in response to an application under the rule of law.

Later Mr Frank Cook (Stockton North, Lab) asked if when Mr Biffen last met the Metropolitan Police Commissioner he had asked him why officers raid homes of members of Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth in order to rifle documents and why they took a document relating to the disposal of radioactive waste at Billingham in Cleveland?

Mr Biffen: If there is any

Low pay levels motion rejected

The Opposition motion condemning the Government for deliberately fostering low pay levels and calling on it to abandon its threat to abolish wages councils was rejected in the Commons on Wednesday night by 289 votes to 196 - Government majority.

A Government amendment welcoming signs of economic recovery as cited by 286 votes to 196 - Government majority.

Mr Biffen: If there is any

Councils' performance to be monitored

CIVIL DEFENCE

Civil defence had to able to deal with a wide range of possible forms of attack on this country and in such an event the lives of millions of people could depend on the planning and training of CD workers.

Mr David Nellist (Coventry South East, Lab) Is he aware that last

Wednesday a police officer

stationed in Coventry telephoned

and spoke to a civilian

in Coventry, Newcastle and

Sheffield? Since only a hundred people

were taken by this alarm, does not

the 85p per head a year spent on

civil defence compared with the £16

a week a family on bombs, show

there is no defence from nuclear

war?

Mr Hard: I do not think his

conclusions come from his premise,

Mr Peter Root (Erewash, C) said the

only action taken by Derbyshire

County Council was the setting up

of a nuclear free zone.

Mr Hard: Certainly no one is

least bit safer because their council

has declared they live in a nuclear

free zone.

Mr Hard: I do not think he

has the present levels of

the licence formed the basis of the

BBC's income until April 1985. No

consideration had been given to an

increase.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C) asked Mr Hard to make a

statement about unfair anomalies in

concessions for old people's homes.

Mr Hard: There certainly are

anomalies and we have been

looking at them. But if you remove

the existing concessions that is

harsh and if you extend them then

the remainder would have to pay a

very high rate indeed.

BT should buy British

HOUSE OF LORDS

The interests of British manufacturers of telecommunications equipment, which were of paramount importance, were fully covered by the Telecommunications Bill, Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said during discussion in the House of Lords on an Opposition amendment which Lord Bruce of Donington had said, sought to provide assurances for manufacturers as well as consumers.

Lord Weinstein (C,) said the

amendment should be supported.

There was nothing specified in

the Bill about British firms

which manufactured telecommunications

equipment, he pointed out that BT

in pursuit of its licence for cellular

radio, placed the first orders for

equipment with the Nippon Electric

Co and not with any British

concern. The Racal company, also

placed orders for equipment abroad.

The amendment was withdrawn

but Lord Bruce indicated that the

Opposition would at least

stage come up with a definition

which made clear the commitment

to safeguard British manufacturers.

Brittan refuses to be drawn on searches

POLICING

Opposition MPs unsuccessfully sought an explanation from Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, at Commons question time on why police officers had searched the home and bicycle bags of Mr Duncan Campbell, the investigative journalist.

Mr Brittan repeated that the warrant under which Mr Campbell's premises were searched was issued by the court, and that he was not answerable for the actions of the court.

The powers exercised by the police (he said) are ones which are challengeable in the courts if anyone suggests that they have been exercised.

Exchanges on the subject began when Mr David Winnick (Walsham, South, Lab) asked Mr Brittan if he was aware of the considerable concern over the way the papers and diaries of Mr Campbell had been searched arising from an accident on his bicycle.

Is not it time (continued) that the Government recognized that we live in a democratic country and that there are basic civil liberties to

protect?

Mr Brittan: The answer to the second question is "No". The answer to the first is that I am not answerable for the actions of the court.

It would be a dangerous step if the House were to expect ministers of the Crown to account for the actions of the courts, which are, rightly, independent.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: His answers about these police raids are totally unacceptable. He seeks to shuffle off his responsibility for the Metropolitan Police.

By what justification did the police photocopy the contents of Mr Winnick

PUBLIC SPENDING

Defence slowdown

Adult education cuts

More cash for the prisons

White Paper projects public spending to match inflation

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

The "broadly stable" projections of spending unveiled yesterday by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Peter Rees, in the first public expenditure White Paper of this Parliament, show a gradual slowdown in the growth of public spending over the next three years - in line with the modest fall in inflation forecast by the Treasury.

The White Paper projects a 5 per cent increase in public spending in 1984-85, to £126,353m, followed by increases of 4.5 per cent in 1985-86 and 3.5 per cent in 1986-87. The Treasury is assuming that prices throughout the economy will rise by 5 per cent during 1984-85, with inflation declining to 4 per cent during the next two years.

This would mean no real increase in public spending, for the first time since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office. Despite repeated assertions in the past that the Government intended to curb public spending, the figures in this White Paper show that it has risen in real terms every year since 1979.

For 1983-84, the year ending next month, spending was at one stage expected to overshoot the target set only last spring by as much as £2,000m. The White Paper suggests that it will be only £700m above target, partly because the Treasury has not distributed £750m of its contingency reserve (about half the total) to spending departments.

This still implies that public spending will have risen by more than 21 per cent faster than inflation. This latest estimate for 1983-84 is about £8,000m higher than the projection for that year published in the Conservatives' first public spending White Paper in 1980.

However, public spending has accounted for a declining share of gross domestic product since 1982, when the economy began to recover from the depths of the recession. From a peak of 44 per cent it is projected to fall to 42 per cent in 1984-85. Only if the economy continues to grow by 3 per cent a year, however, will its share fall by 1986-87 to below the 40.5 per cent level inherited from Labour in 1979.

Spending in 1983-84: plans and outcome

Planning total for 1983-84 published in:	£112.4 bn
March 1980	£113.6 bn
March 1981	£115.6 bn
March 1982	£119.5 bn
Feb 1983	£120.3 bn

Converted from volume to cash
Source: Cmnd 9143

The stable "planning total" in the white paper conceals big changes in individual programmes. The most important shifts are:

A cumulative increase in defence spending of nearly 19 per cent over the next three years. For the first two years, spending (excluding Falklands costs) rises by 3 per cent more than inflation, in line with Britain's Nato commitment.

A cumulative decrease of nearly 40 per cent in spending on trade, industry, energy and employment. Much of this is a reflection of the planned decline in borrowing by nationalized industries. Their external finance, including

Rise in public spending

Annual change in planning totals of public expenditure	
In cash terms %	In cost terms % (after inflation) %
1979-80 +17.0	+0.1
1980-81 +20.5	+1.5
1981-82 +13.0	+2.8
1982-83 +8.3	+1.6
1983-84 est +6.1	+1.1
1984-85 plans +5.0	0.0
1985-86 plans +4.5	-
1986-87 plans +3.5	-

Adjusted for inflations measured by the gdp deflator
Derived from Cmnd 9143

government grants, is assumed to fall by £2,410m over the period, implying that they will have to finance an increasing share of their investment from either improvements in efficiency or higher prices. (As usual, this is one of the most dubious elements in the white paper.) Regional aid and other forms of industrial support are also projected to fall from £1,300m in 1983-84 to £1,000m in 1986-87; An increase of nearly 18 per cent,

Planned changes in the main spending programmes

Percent change between estimated outcome for 1983-84 and plans for
1984-85 1986-87
Defence +8.4 +16.7
Trade, industry, energy and employment -7.7 -39.8
Transport -4.1 +2.9
Housing and other environmental services -5.8 -0.5
Law and order +4.7 +13.2
Education and science -2.3 +2.9
Health and personal social services +5.0 +16.1
Social services +5.3 +17.9

Derived from Cmnd 9143

over the period, in social security hence more dependent on supplementary benefit;

A modest real increase in spending on health and personal social services, Education, transport and housing, by contrast, are all to be cut in real terms. The net result of all these changes is projected that spending on programmes is projected to increase by only 3.1 per

cent in 1984-85, 3.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 2.8 per cent in 1986-87. However, the Treasury has built in a huge and increasing contingency reserve, rising from £2,750m in 1984-85 to £4,750m in 1986-87. If this were all to be allocated to programmes, the rate of increase in spending would rise to 5.3 per cent, 4.5 per cent 3.5 per cent.

But the planning total on which the Government concentrates is reduced by the projections for public sector asset sales - £1,900m in 1984-85 and £2,000m for each of the following years.

This practice (condemned by the Treasury select committee of MPs for understanding the true level of spending to be financed) reduces both the overall figures and the increase in spending in 1984-85 - the year for which this White Paper matters most. Figures for later years will be renegotiated in the next public expenditure round.

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DEFENCE

Government moving towards defence expenditure 'plateau'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

For the first time since the Conservatives came to power in 1979, the Government is moving towards a period in which there will be a negligible real growth in defence spending.

The Government is committed to achieving a Nato target of three per cent growth annually in real terms until March 1986.

On present plans, it will have achieved by then a real growth of 19.5 per cent since 1979, if spending on the Falklands is excluded, or 23 per cent if Falklands spending is included.

In the first year after abandonment of the Nato target - 1986-87 - the Government is aiming for a growth in defence spending, excluding the Falklands, of only 4 per cent in cash terms, bringing the figure for that year to £18,600m.

That is predicted to yield an increase of 1 per cent in real spending power, but that assumes that inflation will be running at only about 3 per cent that year.

It is clear that the defence budget could come under severe pressure if inflation is much above that level two years from now.

However, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that the Ministry of Defence had been basing its long-term planning on the assumption that spending would be on a plateau when the Nato growth commitment expired in 1986. There was no question, he said, of it leading to a big reexamination of defence commitment.

"We believe that on the present levels, notwithstanding

Laying of the matting that is intended to cover all of Port Stanley airfield.

LAW AND ORDER

£23m more for prison plans

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Capital spending on prisons will rise from £57m this year to about £80m in 1985-6 to pay for expansion plans announced by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The programme, which seeks to end overcrowding by the close of the decade, includes four new prisons now being built and a further six on the drawing board, giving 3,196 extra places by the end of 1986-7.

The pay, overtime and allowances of 4,012 extra prison officers and 429 other staff being recruited are the biggest factor in a rise in current

expenditure from £495m this year to £590m in 1986-7.

A jump in capital spending on police from £19m this year to £31m next year and £40m in 1985-6 owes much to a change in radio frequencies, entailing a speed-up in telecommunications re-equipment. The change was agreed at an international conference in 1979.

A rise in capital expenditure by the Lord Chancellor's Department on court services is due to rise from £44m to £50m by 1986-7. Plans assume that police strength in England and Wales of 121,003 in March 1983 will reach 122,500 by the end of 1986.

Current expenditure on police is due to rise from £44m to £50m by 1986-7. Plans assume that police strength in England and Wales of 121,003 in March 1983 will reach 122,500 by the end of 1986.

Although manpower is to increase in some Government agencies, there will also be widespread cuts.

British Shipbuilders is con-

ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT

Cuts in farming services

By Hugh Clayton

The Government wants to cut spending on farming, forestry and a wide range of environmental services which range from care of historic monuments to inland waterways. The figures for agriculture are complicated by the fact that some money is eventually repaid from EEC funds.

The Government's forecasts for the proceeds from privatization have again been revised sharply upwards. The sale of state-owned industry assets is now expected to raise £5,900m over the next three years - roughly double what the Treasury has raised from this source since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office in 1979.

Although the projection for the coming financial year has been left unchanged at £1900m, the figure for 1985/6 has been quadrupled from

£500m to £2,000m. The Treasury expects to raise another £2,000m the following year as well, for which no previous forecasts have been made.

The most the Treasury has raised in a single year before from asset sales is the £1,200m it expects to obtain in the present financial year.

The bulk of that money - about £1,100 - has come from the sale of shares in three companies, BP, Brittish Cable & Wireless.

The higher figures for future years reflect the fact that the Government is now stepping up

PRIVATIZATION

Forecast income revised sharply upwards

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

The continuing drain on government funds by the National Coal Board and the increasing contributions by the electricity and gas industries are highlighted in the White Paper.

It shows that the coal industry's external finance limit (EFL) - which includes redundancy payment provisions as well as support for the concessionary scheme for miners - in 1984-85 is £1,103m.

Figures published yesterday show that provision by the Government for the redundancy scheme and concessionary coal scheme, other than the contribution paid by the EEC, is expected to rise from the £243m included in the 1984-85 EFL, to £270m in 1985-86 and £290m in 1986-87.

The extent of the contributions expected from the gas and electricity industries is shown by the projected total EFLs of the nationalized industries within the Department of Energy. Present government support of £159m in 1983 will change to a contribution of £260m in 1985-86 and to £1,420m in 1986-87.

Both the scale and tempo of its denationalization programme.

Ministers from the Treasury and the main sponsoring departments for the nationalized industries agreed a few weeks ago on a timetable for a whole range of future privatization measures, which will take them right up to the next election and could raise as much as £10,000m.

The White Paper confirms that the Government is hoping to complete three substantial stock market flotation in the next 12 to 18 months.

The first of these is likely to be

the sale of Enterprise Oil, a new company that the Government has set up to own the North Sea oil assets of the British Gas Corporation. This is scheduled to take place in the early summer and should raise an estimated £400m, according to stock market analysts.

Then in October the Government is due to offer shares in British Telecom in what will be the biggest flotation of its kind ever undertaken. The Government plans to sell half the corporation to the public, which most experts believe should raise about £4,000m.

Capital spend will rise by about £50m next year, but by £110m over the three years to

1986-87, with capital spending on family doctors declining from £3m next year to below £1m during 1985-87.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Huge cut in school meals proposed

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A huge cut in school meals as well as significant reductions in adult education and the youth service are proposed for the financial year beginning in April, 1984, in an education budget which shows less spending in real and cash terms.

He also maintained that in real terms spending on education officials were at pains to point out yesterday that the 7 per cent cut in real terms between this year and next would probably be made up by the extra £660m it was giving to the local authorities to spend on which programmes they pleased. On the evidence of last year, they spent more than half of this sum on education.

The White Paper shows that school meals are being cut from £414m in 1983-84 to £37m in 1984-85, an attempt by the Government to persuade local authorities to save money by moving over to cafeteria systems and thereby reduce staff and other overheads.

Adult education is being reduced by £18m in the next financial year, but then goes up again in 1985 by £7m to £80m, and the youth service is receiving a similar cut, down £15m next year and then up again by £8m to £100m. Both these cuts will hit the Inner London Education Authority hardest because it spends much more than average on these two services.

Altogether spending on education drops by £300m next year, from £13,356m to £13,052m. But after that it is set to rise, reaching £13,750m in 1986-87. Sir Keith Joseph, It adds: "Provision per student will in any case be reduced as a result of increased admissions during the years of peak demand." Academic jobs have already been lost in the universities through early retirement and it is now the turn of the polytechnics and institutes of higher education to find compulsory redundancies.

It was made clear yesterday that 500 lecturers in the public sector would have to be made redundant if they did not go voluntarily. The Government is looking for a loss of 3,000 jobs in this sector between 1983 and 1985. Each redundancy is expected to cost £8,000, to be taken out of the £20m put aside

SOCIAL SECURITY

Higher pensions drive up payments

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Social security spending, which makes up almost 30 per cent of central government expenditure, is set to rise by £6.3bn to £41.6bn over the next three years, on the figures in yesterday's White Paper.

The driving forces are chiefly a £9bn rise to £17.6bn in retirement pensions, a continuing rise in unemployment benefit from £1.52bn to £1.7bn; and an increase in supplementary benefit - the "safety net" - from almost £5.7bn to £6.9bn.

The increases assume that most benefits will rise in line with prices, with inflation assumed to rise by 5.5 per cent this year, and by 4.5 per cent and 4 per cent in the following years.

Unemployment, excluding school leavers is assumed to begin to come into effect.

HEALTH

Real spending to rise 10%

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Spending on the National Health Service will rise by about £2.5bn over the next three years, to more than £17bn.

That provides for real increases of about 1 per cent on hospital and community services, roughly double the long term growth assumption of 0.5 per cent announced last year.

The White Paper, however, appears to foreshadow government attempts to control demand-led family practitioner services, which are not cash limited, and which will exceed their Budget by about £100m this year.

The Department of Health is studying a report by the management consultant Bamber Hamlyn on controlling family doctors' spending.

Cash limits have been ruled out as impractical, but the department is considering moves to cut medical students numbers, encourage GPs to retire at 65, and control more strictly the numbers of overseas doctors in an attempt to limit the increase in family doctors.

Capital spend will rise by about £50m next year, but by £110m over the three years to

Angola and South Africa set up commission to monitor border ceasefire

From Michael Hornsby, Lusaka

Angola and South Africa announced joint steps here yesterday to establish and effective ceasefire in the border war and, it is hoped, to open the way for a wider peace settlement in the region and independence for Namibia.

The announcement was made after a historic trilateral conference between the two ideologically hostile Southern African states and the United States, which acted as mediator. The high powered South African and Angolan negotiating teams were led respectively by Mr P. W. Botha, the South African foreign Minister, and Lieutenant-Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan interior Minister.

Mr Chester Crocker, the assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, headed the American delegation.

A communiqué described the meeting as "an important and constructive step towards peaceful resolution of the problems of the region, including the question of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435".

Resolution 435 is the internationally accepted basis for the granting of independence to Namibia, a pre-First World War German colony which South Africa has occupied for 67 years. Since 1966 South Africa's been regarded as illegal by the UN.

This, he said, was being done under the understanding conveyed

Drug abuse soars

France bans sale of solvent

From Diana Geddes, Paris

France has decided to ban the sale of trichlorethylene solvent to people under 18 as part of its campaign to tackle the ever-rising tide of drug abuse and addiction. About 20 young people are known to have died last year as a direct result of sniffing solvents and glue.

M. Joseph Franceschi, Minister for Public Security, told Wednesday's cabinet meeting that a record 190 people died in France last year officially due to drug abuse, 16 per cent more than in the previous year, and nearly double the number five years earlier. But the real figure was probably three or four times higher, he added.

The quantity of drugs seized by police and customs last year broke all records: 168 kilos of heroin were seized, up to 70 per cent up on the previous year, and 223 kilos of cocaine, nearly three times as much as in 1982, and a hundred times more than 1976.

The retail value of the total drugs haul including 28 tons of cannabis, had been estimated at 7 billion francs (£580m), but some put the value ten times higher, M. Franceschi said.

More than 26,000 people were arrested last year for drug offences, 20 per cent more than in 1982. They included 2,735 traffickers, three times the number in the previous year. Eight out of every 10 traffickers are foreigners, mostly Chinese and North African Arabs; eight out of 10 users are French.

March of deserts unstoppable

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Very little progress has been made in reversing the spread of the world's deserts since the first world conference on desertification was held in Nairobi in 1977, a UN official said yesterday.

Mr Gaafar Karrar, a Sudanese expert who heads the desertification unit of the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme said: "The goal of arresting the spread of the deserts by the year 2000 is no longer feasible." This goal was set at the 1977 conference.

But a reassessment of the areas threatened by desertification now indicates that 135 million people live in areas severely affected - not 57 million as estimated in 1977. Fifteen million acres are still being reduced to desert-like conditions every year through overpopulation, overgrazing and lack of care for the environment. Another 52 million acres are being reduced to "zero productivity" each year.

If the present march of desertification continues, Mr Karrar said, "The situation will become a global catastrophe by the year 2000. We could lose a third of our existing arable land."

He said this had wide implications: for instance, low land productivity tended to force villagers into the towns, causing food shortages which could lead to riots and other unrest.

It was urgent for every country, especially in the Third World, to prepare a plan of action against the further spread of the desert and to seek international assistance to deal with it.

Treurnicht party's slim victory

From Our Correspondent, Cape Town

Two by-election results announced yesterday provide interesting pointers to the white political mood in South Africa as the country prepares to introduce a new constitution.

The ruling Nationalist Party has lost the ultra-conservative Transvaal bushveld constituency of Soutpansberg to the breakaway Conservative Party led by Dr Andries Treurnicht. The CP majority was a bare 497 votes.

In the English-speaking Natal constituency of Pinetown, the Liberal opposition group, the Progressive Federal Party, the official Opposition, held its ground against the small Natal-based New Republic Party, which now seems destined to fade from the scene. The PFP retained the seat by 880 votes.

Political analysts say that the results are "complementary rather than contradictory and should encourage the Botha administration to quicken the pace of reform. Although the National Party lost a seat to its right-wing opponents in Soutpansberg, the narrow margin of the Conservative win shows that the right is not strong enough to put a brake on any reformist initiatives which the Nationalist Government may care to introduce.

Pinetown, held by the strongly reformist PFP, showed a continuing willingness by whites to move a great deal faster in reform than the Government has so far. The state of the parties in the 178 member parliament is National Party, 125; Progressive Federal Party, 27; Conservatives, 18; New Republic Party, 8.

Iranians launch massive assault

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iran and Iraq were locked in heavy ground fighting yesterday after Iranian forces launched an offensive in the central sector of the Gulf war front, prompting Iraq to step up attacks on shipping in the Gulf.

The main achievement of the conference is the setting up of a joint Angolan-South African commission "to monitor the disengagement progress in southern Angola and to detect, investigate and report any alleged violations of the commitments of the parties".

The first meeting of the joint commission took place yesterday, and further meetings are to be held "to facilitate the successful completion of the disengagement process and to establish an effective cessation of hostilities".

Swapo itself was not represented at the meeting, but it is presumed that Angola was speaking for the organization, which has so far observed the terms of the South African disengagement.

The creation of the commission follows on the announcement on January 31 by Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, that South African troops had begun disengaging from southern Angola as the first step towards a hoped-for permanent ceasefire in the region.

Sources emphasized that the visit by Mr Nujoma had long been planned as part of a European tour.



Triple assault: Druze gunmen burst into a Phalangist stronghold in Damour in the attack which wrested two towns from Lebanese government forces.

Reagan supports UN force for Beirut

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

With American policy in Lebanon in collapse, the Reagan Administration is throwing strong support behind the creation of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the Beirut area, while trying to reassure its Middle East allies that it is still able to influence events in the region.

Teheran radio said the offensive centred south of the Iranian border town of Mehran and north-east of the Iraqi city of Kut.

The national news agency said Iranian troops had captured an Iraqi supply route and several strategic heights. A military communiqué quoted by Teheran radio said the Fourth Iraqi Border Guard Brigade was destroyed, Iraq's 47th Infantry Battalion headquarters had also been destroyed, it said.

Iran gave no indication of the number of troops involved in the fighting or what it called the offensive "pre-determined objectives".

But diplomats in Baghdad recently said reports from Tehran indicated about 500,000 Iranian troops had been sent to the war fronts in preparation for an offensive, after several months of stagnation in the ground fighting.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said five enemy naval targets had been destroyed in naval and air attacks in the Khor Musa area at the head of the Gulf. Two other targets in the same convoy trying to enter the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini had been destroyed by Iraqi land mines.

He did not identify the ships, but said all Iraqi gunboats and aircraft returned safely to base.

Bandar Khomeini is the site of a joint Japanese-Iranian petrochemical project. Work on the 80 per cent complete complex was halted in 1981 after a series of Iraqi bomb attacks.

In Tokyo, the Japanese partner said it had cancelled the departure from Japan of a second batch of workers following another Iraqi raid on the site last Sunday.

In other tests, taped messages were played to patients for up to 16 hours a day, in some instances for 10 consecutive days. Some patients faced the tapes for 34 months.

Patients whose brains resisted such treatment were forced into artificial comas with drugs, or their resistance was lowered by sensory deprivation.

The newspaper said that the documents obtained under Canada's Freedom-of-Information Law show that the Government knew that patients were sometimes put to sleep for several weeks, and were given electric shocks to the brain to study the effects of memory loss.

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The Church of Scientology in Toronto has now called on the Federal Government to launch a parliamentary inquiry into "the extent to which 'mind control' and similar-type experiments have gone on across Canada".

The church made public documents which showed that the experiments came under headings such as "Research into the psychological factors causing the human mind to accept certain political beliefs"

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Gromyko lines up against Ustinov in the Soviet leadership race

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There were reports yesterday in Moscow that Mr Andrei Gromyko or Marshal Dmitry Ustinov might become Soviet President instead of Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr Chernenko, aged 72, was elected party leader by the Central Committee on Monday, but the post of President remains vacant. Like Mr Brezhnev before him, Mr Chernenko's chances of becoming head of state as well as party leader would depend on his political effectiveness over the next few weeks.

The head of state is formally elected by the Supreme Soviet, and is chairman of its presidium. Elections to a new Supreme Soviet will convene later in March, possibly preceded by a Central Committee Plenum.

Mr Andropov became Soviet President last June, after eight months in power, but it took Mr Brezhnev 13 years to combine the two posts. Mr Brezhnev initially ruled as part of a collective leadership, and there was speculation this week that Mr Chernenko might revert to the same pattern.

Mr Chernenko is the oldest man to become party leader, and although he received foreign leaders as the Kremlin's top man this week there are doubts about both his health and his political strength. His rise was resisted in the Politburo by younger leaders such as Mr Michael Gorbachov, aged 52, and Mr Grigori Romanov, aged 61. Both were shown by Soviet television in prominent positions next to Mr Chernenko during the laying in state and funeral ceremonies for Mr Andropov on Tuesday, suggesting that Mr Gorbachov is heir apparent.

It was said yesterday that as an apparent sign of his informal status as number two, Mr Gorbachov had made a speech at Monday's Central Committee meeting which elected Mr Chernenko, although the text of Mr Gorbachov's remarks has not yet been released.

It was being said that since the younger generation was still biding its time, the presidency might go to Marshal Ustinov, the 75-year-old Defence Minister, or the Foreign Minister, 74-year-old Mr Gromyko. Marshal Ustinov would be replaced as Defence Minister by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, the chief of staff, who came to public prominence last autumn after the Korean airliner disaster.

Mr Gromyko, Foreign Minister since 1957, could relinquish the post to his deputy, Mr Georgy Kornienko. —

Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, the

US hopes for useful dialogue

From Mohsin Ali Washington

President Reagan believes that the new Soviet leadership is making an effort to play down rhetoric and to explore ways to promote a more useful dialogue.

In his first public appearance on Wednesday since the death of Mr Andropov, the president said that the atmosphere was positive during Tuesday's meeting between Vice President George Bush and Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the new Soviet leader, at Mr Andropov's funeral in Moscow.

"Although Secretary Chernenko did not depart from standard Soviet positions, he did appear ready to put our relationship on a more constructive basis," President Reagan said in remarks prepared for a fund-raising event for women political candidates of his Republican Party.

"If the new leadership decides to join us in a good faith effort we can accomplish much together," Mr Reagan said. "There was no better time to start than right now. If the Soviet Government wanted peace, then there would be peace."

A month ago, the President called for a constructive working relationship between the two superpowers and on the Soviet Union to return to the Geneva arms control negotiations.

On Wednesday he said again that the US had always been willing to meet the Soviet Union halfway to find solutions to the many problems that divide them and to reach fair arms-reduction agreements.

He said that Mr Bush had emphasized to Mr Chernenko America's desire for greater mutual understanding and genuine cooperation. Mr Bush had also made clear Washington's concern about issues such as human rights, and regional conflicts.

The President has rejected the idea of an early "get-acquainted" summit with Mr Chernenko, but he reemphasized on Tuesday that he would be interested in a "substantive" summit.

● TOKYO: Japan and the Soviet Union are to meet here on March 12 and 13 (AP report).

Moscow hints at revival of détente

From Our Own Correspondent Moscow

As the last trickle of world leaders left Moscow yesterday, diplomats summed up Mr Chernenko's meetings this week by saying he had signalled a return to détente with the West while leaving China out in the cold and showing an interest in an initiative on Afghanistan.

Mr Chernenko saw Vice-President Bush, Mrs Thatcher, Chancellor Kohl of West Germany and Mr Pierre Moupy, the Prime Minister of France as well as Mr Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

He struck them all as a direct and practical man who avoided reference to past recriminations. Mr Trudeau said before leaving Moscow that the "megaphones had been lowered". Mr Chernenko had made only two conditions for resumption of East-West talks: they should be "as between equals", and they must not amount to "dialogue for the sake of dialogue".

Mr Chernenko made no overtures to China however, in contrast to Mr Andropov, who at Brezhnev's funeral in 1982 made a point of giving a warm welcome to Mr Huang Hua, then Chinese Foreign Minister. Mr Chernenko did not receive Mr Wan Li, the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, who was the most senior Chinese official to come to Moscow since the early 1960s.

Mr Wan saw Mr Geidar Aliyev, who is a Politburo member and Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Wan deliberately referred to Mr Andropov's known desire for an improvement in Sino-Soviet relations, but Mr Aliyev merely observed that Moscow was "invariably" in favour of improvement. Mr Wan said he hoped the obstacles between Moscow and Peking - the large Soviet armed presence on China's border, Kremlin backing for Vietnamese control of Kampuchea, and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan - could be overcome in consultations. The next round is due in Moscow next month, but Russia is suspicious of Peking's recent amity with the United States.

Mr Chernenko ignored the opportunity for progress towards a political settlement in Afghanistan and turned down a request by President Zia of Pakistan for a private meeting. In 1982 Mr Andropov warmly greeted President Zia and spurned President Babrak Karmal, the Soviet-installed Afghan leader.

Mr Chernenko by contrast did not even respond to President Zia's approach while holding a long talk with Mr Karmal.

Soviet Moldavia, formerly Bessarabia, belonged to Romania until 1940, when it was annexed by Moscow. The province has been a bone of contention between the two countries for the past 200 years.

Under the leadership of Mr Andropov relations between the two Warsaw Pact allies had cooled. Western diplomats said.

Romanian television was the only Soviet block service not to provide live coverage of Mr Andropov's funeral.

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Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, the

Lawyer's plea for Orlov

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr John Macdonald, QC, the British lawyer who has taken up the case of Dr Yuri Orlov, appealed to the new leadership in Moscow yesterday to release the Soviet physicist.

Dr Orlov, a former leader of the Moscow group monitoring Soviet observance of the Helsinki Accords, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and five years internal exile for anti-social activities in 1978. Mr Macdonald said that he had

now been released from prison, but had been sent immediately into internal exile in the Yakutsk region - one of the harshest in Siberia.

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THE ARTS

Operetta

Deliciously poised

Patience
oblivious

letter to *The Times* in 1973 complained that there were only 20 instead of the requisite 200 wistful maidens visible in Oly Carte's production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "new and original Aesthetic Opera". *Patience* has indeed been tried and tested rigorously in the last decade or two, and nowhere are so many English theatrical Opera wheretofor 15 years. John Cox's production has had to keep itself firmly on its toes.

Now there is new competition up the road at New Priory's Wells Opera, this season is still and "utterly unsophisticated" very much on the mettle. John Stoddart's signs, originally exhibited in 1969 at the National Portrait Gallery alongside George Du Maurier's *Punch* cartoons, shine as joyfully as the sunflower, the Watteau-esque chapel only ornate and the delightful "lily green" of the stencil ora elegantly silhouetted.

And, because John Cox has turned his person to direct this revival, the staging still wears an assiduous research lightly, the comic business is as deftly aimed here to Sullivan's mock seriousness as it is characteristic of elsewhere to the real Zing. Where the first act box-treats truly to become a case of "toffee for breakfast, toffee for dinner, toffee for tea", a tinker of verbal timing or the sudden crash and turn of a harried repetition add tang to the thir.

With each inflection, each colour foil hangs from pastel to primary, reflected in the pit by Victor seviorris's astute direction. Lumbousious here, melancholic op here, it always moves with just off-the-spring, callike tread required by this score.

If the production itself has bridged well, then so have its principals. Derek Hammond-Straud seems to have shed his ears, even vocally and physically, in the everlasting bloom of his Bunthorne. His "Sing for high to you" duet with Lady Jane is a masterpiece of art understatement, as fresh in its



Derek Hammond-Straud:
everlasting bloom

wit and dexterity as if Hinge and Bracket had never been born. Lady Jane herself is amply embodied once more by Anne Collins, delicious in her uncrushable dignity, and a splendid warning to all those tempted to adverbial prodigality.

At the centre stands ENO's first Welsh Patience: Patricia O'Neill, taking the role for the first time, brings to it just enough coyness not to cloy, and an inflection ("I yearn my living") that could have been written into the part. Shelagh Squires returns as Lady Saphir, while the remaining rapturous maidens add to the evening's debuts.

Jane Eaglen, who has just joined the company, is clearly far more than the tinkling cymbal she flourishes as Lady Ella: we look forward to hearing more, and in different guise, of her distinctively resonant soprano. Sally Burgess's urbane Lady Angels provides a pleasing foil, as does Christopher Booth-Jones's Grosvenor to Bunthorne. He, too, makes his debut in the rôle here, and presents portrait of fourteenth-century frenzy which is as nicely poised between the distant and the immediate as the entire production.

Hilary Finch

Star 80 (18)

Gate Bloomsbury; Classic Haymarket

Strange Invaders (PG)
Studio Oxford Circus

Curse of the Pink Panther (PG)
Plaza

Star 80 confirms Bob Fosse's fascination with the morbid and mortal dark side of fame, already evident in *Lenny* and *All That Jazz*. It is a dramatization of the true story of Dorothy Stratton, a naive and beautiful youngster who went from Canada to California; became briefly a star in Hugh Hefner's *Playboy* galaxy; made a few forgettable films before she met Peter Bogdanovich and played in his *Let Them Laugh*; jumbled into romantic involvement with Bogdanovich; and was murdered by her jealous husband-manager, who took his own life at the same time.

The case has evidently a strong fascination. Since the tragedy, in 1980, Teresa Carpenter has won the Pulitzer Prize with her *Village Voice* article "Death of a Playmate", on which Fosse's own script is in part based; there has been a television feature film *Death of a Centerfold: the Dorothy Stratton Story*; and Peter Bogdanovich is on the point of publishing his own account of the affair.

As Fosse sees the story, Paul Snider is a small-time pimp and hustler who sees his big break in Dorothy. His push launches her, but the first step up the ladder already takes her out of his class. Incredibly cheap and gaudy, he is despised by the smooth *Playboy* lot; and even the artless and good-natured Dorothy quickly recognises that he has become a liability.

Her success meanwhile sharpens his own sense of failure in everything he does, whether organizing male striptease shows or running dubious orthopaedic goods.

Probably Fosse himself feared that this story of Boy Meets Girl, Girl Leaves Boy, Boy Slays Girl was rather thin for a dramatic film. The solution

Sense of tragedy survives all the inconsistencies

Cinema



Pushy yet pitiful: Eric Roberts as Paul Snider questions a Playboy Bunny (Tina Willson) about the activities of his wife in Star 80

he attempts to elaborate it with the somewhat démodé "mosaic" (or, rather, crazy-quilt) structure, cutting backwards and forwards between not-very-enigmatic flashes of the murder, post facto interviews with the survivors of the story, and the progression of the doomed romance. The method has two major disadvantages. It effectively removes suspense, since we know from the start the outcome. This sort of fragmentation, and the flashy cutting entailed, make it hard to explore the characters very deeply. Depth, though, is not much in Fosse's style. His interest is in

peopled by fluffy pink girls and men with blue-rinsed hair and gold chains. Mariel Hemingway's performance is touching, and intimates that it may be because there is no evident real father in her life (we see only her protective, bewildered mother, nicely played by Carroll Baker) that she is so dependent on a dangerous succession of strong-willed men – Snider, Hefner and Bogdanovich. (Bogdanovich is the only character who is not given his real-life name; the casting of an English actor, Roger Rees, and the change of name suggests an unavailing effort to disclaim the identification.)

More remarkable is the performance of Eric Roberts as Snider. This is only Roberts's third film career in six years, which is all the stranger

since his playing in both *King of the Gypsies* and *Raggedy Man* was outstanding.

In *Star 80* he is cast against his own ordinarily fresh and sympathetic type, and has to overcome the inherent inconsistencies and unsubsidiaries of the script. His Snider

is cheap, violent, unprincipled, pushy and repellently dressed, even when he drops the pimp style for the Playboy. His innate violence appears early and nastily in the film when he playfully stabs a prom party dancer with a flick-knife. Yet Roberts still manages to build such a sense of pity about this lonely, hopeless, out-of-his-depth punk that the climactic scene of slaughter and necrophilia touches on

The reassuring optimism of *Strange Invaders* makes it an exception among science-fiction films. We are accustomed to apocalyptic presentations of doom. The message of this film is that nothing is as bad as it seems, even if the space people snatch your wives and children and the Government is, in some sort of conspiracy with them. When all the special effects are done and the last face has been juicily peeled off, the peace and order of Middle America are restored.

The script is not very coherent, but the film has two things in its favour:

One is a moment of poetry and a hint of what the film might have been, when a man aged by ten years of worry is reunited with his wife and children who have stayed untouched by the intervening years. The other is the casting of Paul LeMat, the leading man from *Jonathan Demme's Children's Band* and *Melvin and Howard*. LeMat is a chubby, amiable, anxious, untidy young man whose shirt is always tumbling out of trousers that seem themselves on the point of subsidence, and who has a way of impressing belief both in his worries and his warmth. *Strange Invaders* was directed by Michael Laughlin, and written by him in collaboration with William Condon.

Curse of the Pink Panther is a further erratic attempt to keep Inspector Clouseau alive after the death of his creator, Peter Sellers. In last year's *Trail of the Pink Panther* a lot of old Sellers' footage was uncomfortably patched into new story. *Curse of the Pink Panther* is more ingenious, in dispensing with the need to produce Clouseau in person. The Sureté decide to put the best detective in the world on to the job of finding the mislaid inspector, but Clouseau's boss (Herbert Lom), fearful of the return of his distressing subordinate, programmes the computer to find the world's worst detective.

This produces New York's least wanted cop, Clifton Sleigh, played by Ted Wass, and clearly a fly-out permanent successor to Seller's Clouseau. Wass is a comedian in the mould of Harold Lloyd, with the same horn-rimmed spectacles, college-boy earnestness and tendency to get shoved out of high windows. He even does bit of actual Lloyd business with a suit that has shrunk after a dip in a swimming pool.

Given the chance of the kind of sight gag that Blake Edwards does best (there is a fine moment with a high wind and an umbrella), Wass comes into his own. Like the film in general, however, he is handicapped most of the time by the script, which is wordy, laboured and generally witless. Blake Edwards is clearly in need of a writer. As his own scenarist he is worst when he is smuttish.

The appearances of a frail David Niven, who has had to be provided with a dubbed voice, and of Peter Arne, who was subsequently murdered, add to the film's somewhat morbid, Burke-and-Hare resurrectionism.

David Robinson

Concerts

We shall have opportunities to reconsider *Gloriana* at the Coliseum next month and *Owen Wingrave* at Aldeburgh in June, as was reported here last week (*Albert Herring* still awaits its champion). While performances and recordings are discovering the life in two concert works that puzzled Britten's admirers in the early 1960s, the *War Requiem*, thought to be too popular to be intelligent, and the Cello Symphony, considered too intellectual to be viable.

It was the latter that Raphael Wallfisch so valiantly and successfully rescued in this third evening of the English Chamber Orchestra's valuable Mozart-Britten series.

Perhaps the work's difficulties for the listener stem from the centrality of the cello, which makes an uncharacteristic viewpoint into the texture of a Britten composition: one is much more used to hearing his music in terms of high voices and instruments. But the soloist's main worry, once he has tucked away all the virtuosity, must be that the almost continuous cello soliloquy is so much voiced for Rostropovich's musical personality.

Mr Wallfisch got around this problem with his conscientiousness and honesty. He took on personal responsibility for the tense argument of the first movement, for the scherzo's dance and for the adagio's dark wanderings; he then basked with a touch of permissible pride in the glory of the concluding passacaglia.

Of course the Rostropovich mannerisms – the intense high trills, the large bowings – were still there: they are written into the score. But they were allusions, not caricatures, along a thorny path Mr Wallfisch was exploring for himself, albeit with encouraging support from the orchestra under Stewart Bedford.

This orchestra's sympathetic response to Mr Perahia one now takes for granted, which is no bad thing if it allows one to concentrate on Mr Perahia. He began K488 by drawing from the strings a smooth legato he proved well able to match at the keyboard, in sounds of sweet melancholy softened by distance. The slow movement he brought forward, finding an initial eccentricity that his playing then accommodated, before a finale that did not falter from the performance's elevated plateau.

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Paul Griffiths

LMP/Blech

Festival Hall

Times have changed since the London Mozart Players, who in this concert celebrated their thirty-fifth birthday, first enriched the capital's concert life with what were then comparatively stylish, small-scale performances of Haydn and Mozart. Even the tradition-bound English Chamber Orchestra has been perceptibly influenced by the Hogwoods and Harnoncourts.

But under the distinguished guiding hand of its director, Harry Blech, this ensemble has remained entrenched in its ways. Only in the seating of the orchestra (with first and second violins placed opposite each other) can any nod in the direction of authenticity be perceived. Now, though, some sort of revitalizing force is needed, and maybe Mr Blech himself has recognized that, for at the end of the season he relinquishes his post to Jane Glover.

But, for the time being, the relaxed tempos and blunt articulation remain, and no continuo instrument is allowed to encroach upon Mr Blech's hallowed ground. Fair enough perhaps in the full textures of Mozart's Symphony No 40, but a crucial mistake in Haydn's Symphony No 49 ("La Pasión"), where there are obvious gaps in the harmony.

More worrying than such matters was the generally insipid approach to the music, particularly in the Haydn. The wide leaps in the fast second movement, which heightened the pathos implicit in the diminished intervals of the minor scale, had virtually no impact. And, where his *Sturm und Drang* effects should have had you on the edge of your seat, the Menuetto simply plodded dutifully. Nevertheless, full marks to the horns. Happily the outer movements of the Mozart, played in the version without tension, had a greater sense of and Menuetto sounded laboured.

The two concertos failed to tighten the burden of an arduous evening's listening. Malcolm Messier gave the first movement of Mozart's C major Oboe Concerto with an almost manic energy that had obviously spent itself by the finale. And Ernst Kovacic played a Haydn Violin Concerto in the same key with just the sort of lavish romanticism that it did not need.

Stephen Pettitt

For a fairly short time in the Fifties, skiffle satisfied the longings of those with musical aspirations but no qualifications. If you could play three chords on a guitar, or afford a kazoo (it buzzed), or acquire a washing line, a tea chest and a broomstick, which together made a bass, you could join a group anywhere or even form one.

Professional musicians, beaten by the wave, would probably have said that it did not hurt to be tone-deaf, but the young weren't listening.

This brief flowering of anything-goes-for anybody was celebrated in BBC1's *Forty Minutes*, produced and directed by Alan Patient, last night. The arch-priest, Lomie Donegan, whose "Rock Island Line" made the top ten in 1956 and became a hit in America, too – maybe in part because of their astonishment at hearing their own music sing back at them – was on parade and other less well-known practitioners came out.

They included the Labour MP Stan Crowther and two professors of physics, Doctors John Hasted and Brian Silver.

Others went on to greater achievement – John Lennon, in whose native Liverpool 300 skiffle groups, each with its coterie of devotees, competed for public attention.

Chris Barber, the enduring jazzman, among them.

Donegan's music inspired the more adventurous to go to his music sources, and that section of the British public discovered one.

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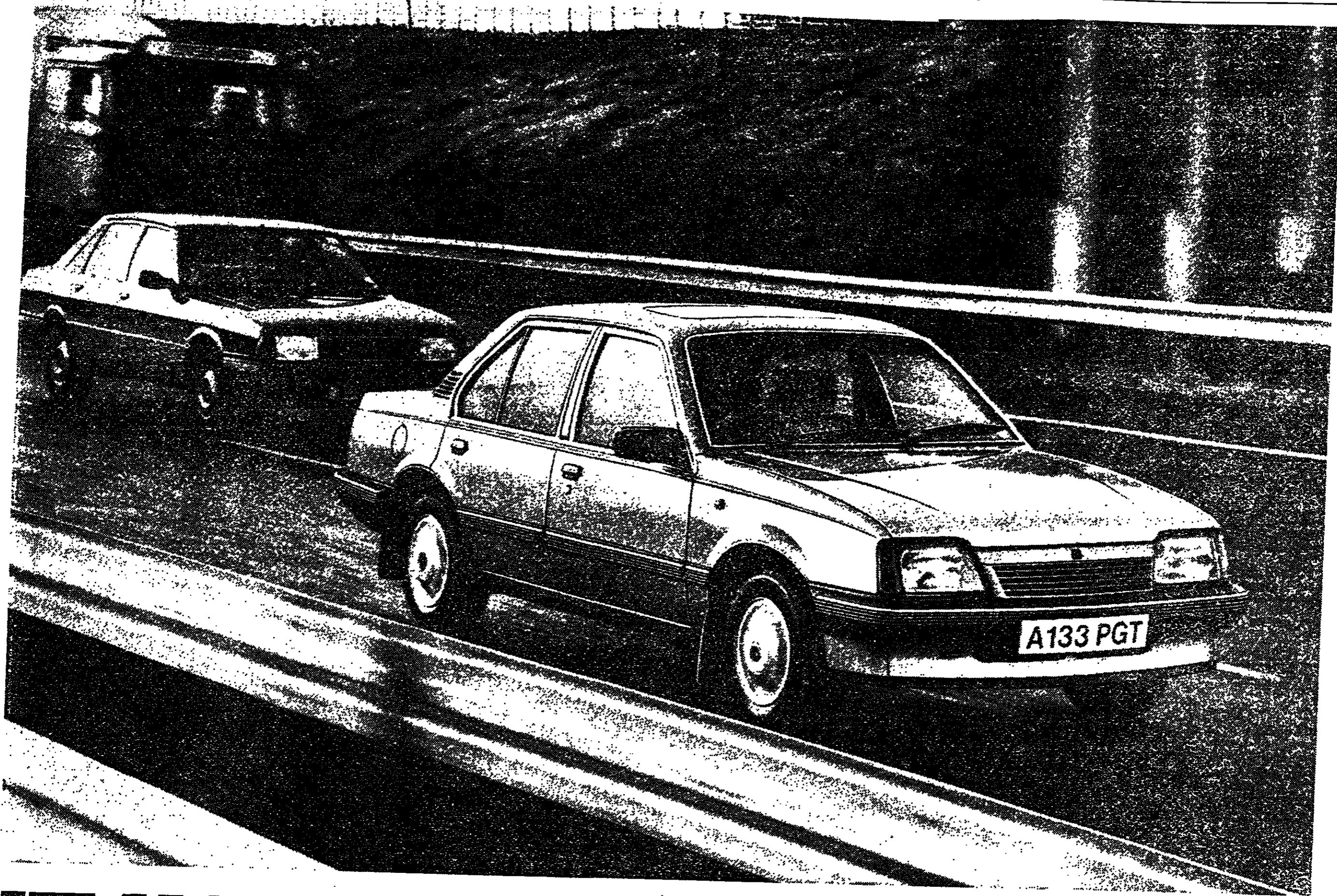
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IT HAS OVERTAKEN EVERY OTHER FAMILY SALOON.

Since its launch, the Cavalier has set standards that have left other cars far behind.

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So just what is it that puts the Cavalier so far ahead?

The engine certainly gives it a flying start.

The 1600, for example, produces a level of power that some competitors need two litres to match.

While our SRi 1.8 turns out sports car performance and turns in 36.7 mpg at motorway speeds.

To put all that power on the road, we use front-wheel drive.

This, coupled with our advanced suspension system, improves both road-holding and handling.

Or, as 'Drive and Trail' put it, the Cavalier's... "crisp, responsive handling and generally unflappable nature can't fail to impress a keen driver."

Yet despite the continuing success of the Cavalier, we're continuing to build on its lead.

There are now 23 models in all. The range, including booted-saloons and hatchbacks, has just been further extended with the new estate.

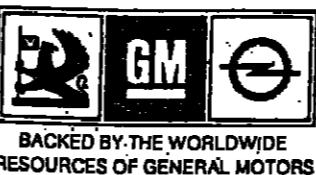
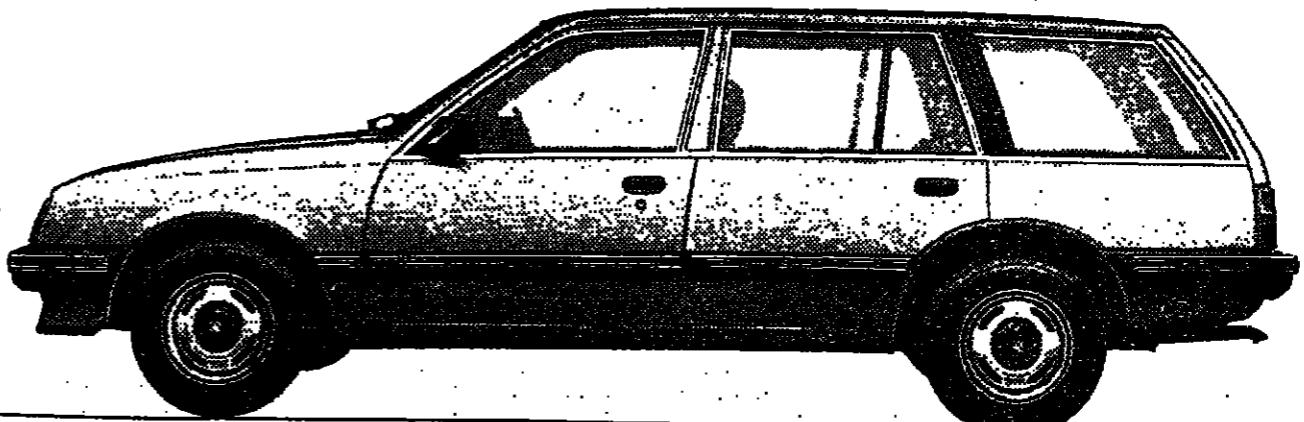
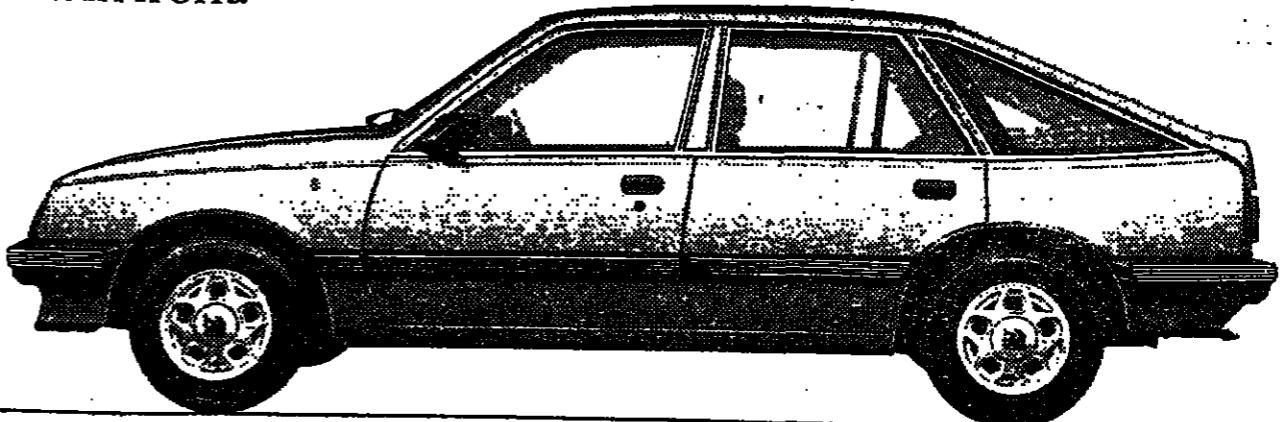
Under the bonnet you can choose from a 1.3, a 1.6 or 1.6 diesel. Whilst at the top end there's 1.8 litres of fuel-injection.

Inside, the Cavalier comes almost tailor-made. We offer no less than six levels of equipment, including the sumptuous

CD models. And with every one of them, value for money is a standard feature.

However, you can't choose a car on paper. So why not arrange a test drive? Side by side with competitors if you like.

We're confident the Cavalier will finish as it started. Out in front.



VAUXHALL CAVALIER.

Better. By Design.

SPECTRUM

FINDINGS SPECIAL: Super Computers

1st Generation

Designed in the mid-1940s by John von Neumann and built with thermionic valves. Vast, cumbersome and prone to break down frequently.

2nd

Introduced in the late 1950s and built with separate transistors. Far more reliable and compact.

3rd

In the late 1960s, several electronic components were combined on a small silicon wafer or chip as an integrated circuit. Size and manufacturing costs fell.

4th

In the early 1980s Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) put hundreds of thousands of components on a chip. Size and manufacturing costs fell.

5th

Arriving in the 1990s, new architectures and software will be capable of intelligent processing of knowledge, rather than earlier data processing.

Japan and the United States are racing to develop the "fifth generation" of computers — machines which will calculate a thousand times faster than the present generation and which will be able to converse in non-technical language. The prize is economic supremacy in the 1990s.

Today's computers still follow the relatively simple architecture invented by John von Neumann for the primitive vacuum-tube machines of the 1940s. They have a central memory and processing unit, which performs calculations one by one. The single link between memory and processor has come to be known as the "von Neumann bottleneck" because of the limit it places on the computer's operating speed.

The "non-von Neumann architectures", with which researchers are experimenting for the Fifth Generation, rely on some form of parallel processing. The processors and memories are decentralized, and the computer gains speed by carrying out many different calculations at the same time. The difficulty, of course, is to keep the operations synchronized and prevent the computer racing into chaos when central control is removed.

One popular approach is "data flow", invented by Jack Dennis at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and espoused by John Gurd at Manchester University, where a group has built a small experimental data flow computer. Another British team, headed by John Darlington at Imperial College, is working on a machine called Alice, based on a variation of the same principle.

The chart (above, right) shows how data flow would cope with a very simple calculation:

$(2+5) \times (3+5) + (4+5) \times 5$.

Described in words, the operations is: Add 2 to 5, add 3 to 5, and multiply those two sums. Add 4 to 5 and multiply by 5. Finally add together the results of the two multiplications.

The traditional sequential method required six consecutive steps:

1. $2+5=7$
2. $3+5=8$
3. $4+5=9$
4. $7 \times 8 = 56$
5. $5 \times 9 = 45$
6. $56 + 45 = 101$ (final answer)

In the data flow computer, the four starting numbers (2, 3, 4 and 5) are sent as independent "data packets" to the "nodes" (processors) that do the calculations as soon as the data arrive. So three separate copies of 5 go to the different adding nodes, and a fourth goes to a multiplying node.

The three first-stage additions take place simultaneously, and the results are sent on to the two multiplying nodes, which again work simultaneously and transmit their answers for the final addition.

In this example, the data flow calculations took place in three phases rather than the six steps of the consecutive method. In real problems, hundreds of operations might be going on simultaneously, saving an enormous amount of time.

CHIPS**The alternative microchip**

There is a complete contrast between the unchanging architecture of commercial computers and the astonishing pace of improvement in their most important components — from valves and transistors to today's microchips, which pack several hundred thousand transistors onto a wafer of silicon smaller than a fingernail.

Semiconductor researchers are pursuing various approaches to make sure that the rate of progress does not slacken. The most obvious is to cram more and more onto a conventional silicon chip by further miniaturization. The components on today's most sophisticated commercial chips are only two or three microns wide (a micron is one-thousandth of a millimetre or one-fiftieth the diameter of a human hair).

With new etching techniques (using far-ultraviolet, X-rays or electron beams) it may be possible in the 1990s to mass-produce chips with features measuring half-a-micron across, containing several million components — although all the electrical activity on such a small area would produce a formidable problem for designers.

Experimental alternatives to the silicon chip are now emerging.

• **Wafer-scale integration**, in which the circuitry of many chips is combined on a much larger wafer of silicon, 10 centimetres across. That allows much faster communication

than between separate chips. But inevitable defects in such a large area of silicon make manufacture more tricky.

• **Three-dimensional chips**, in which the circuitry is stacked up on several layers. But the manufacturing details of "high-rise" technology have not been worked out.

• **Gallium arsenide (GaAs)** as an alternative semiconductor to silicon. Electrons can move through GaAs five times faster than through silicon. GaAs is close to mass-production.

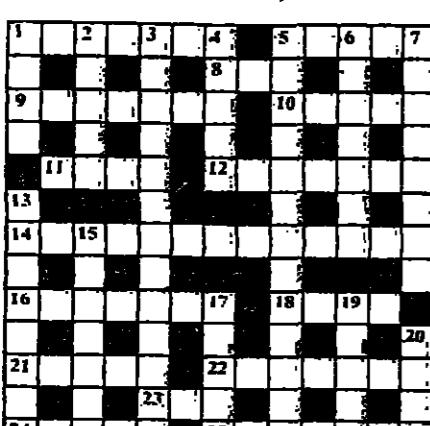
• **Combining previously separate**

functions on a single chip. The best example is the "transputer" which Immos, Britain's state-backed chip company, hopes to begin manufacturing in about a year's time. It includes processor, memory and communications on a conventional-sized chip (see illustration below). This combination not only enables the processor to go 10 times faster than any conventional chip (up to 10 million instructions per second) but also makes the transputer an ideal building-block for decentralized Fifth Generation computers.

moreover... Miles Kington

Come back Temple Bar, all is forgiven

Should Temple Bar be brought back to London or be allowed to remain in dampest Hertfordshire? As the controversy rages on, I am pleased to print

CONCISE CROSSWORD
(No 270)

ACROSS
1 John Wyndham novel plant (7)
5 Trial panelist (5)
8 Engineer union (5)
9 Chivalrous (7)
10 Circular (5)
11 Legend (4)
12 Frolic (7)
14 Quite sooner (6,7)
16 Heavy downpour (7)
18 Ship floor (4)
21 Cooked in fat (5)
22 Weaken courage (7)
23 Ulmus tree (3)
24 Shockingly detailed (5)
25 Go before (7)
SOLUTION TO NO 269
ACROSS: 1 Gothic 3 Space 3-bit 9 Scampi 18 Revamp 31 Trout 32 Downfall 14 Industrial 17 Stagnate 19 Ogre 21 Trivia 23 Timber 24 Psi 25 Client 26 Awning
DOWN: 2 Oscar 3 Hamstring 4 Chindit 5 Straw 6 Rev 7 Cumulus 13 Fellow man 15 Natural 16 Inertia 18 Adapt 20 Return 22 Vit

the "best" of the many letters I have received on the subject.

From Lord Brackett

Sir. There may not be many of your readers old enough, like me, to remember a time when Temple Bar was in Fleet Street. I often used to repair there after work for a quick drink or two before going home, and I can still remember the brilliant talk offered by such men as G. K. Chesterton, F. E. Smith, H. G. Wells and T. S. Eliot. One day Aldous Huxley tried to get in, but he was banned on the grounds that he had no initials. A. E. W. Mason was allowed in on sufferance, but we all felt that having three initials was a little nouveau riche.

I feel there is far too much use of first names these days — some people seem to have nothing but first names, like Clive James and Alan Brien, yours etc

From Mr J. L. Simpson

Sir. It seems fairly obvious to me that nobody wants the Temple Bar and that if it did not exist, there would be no need to invent it. In which case, there seem to be two options open to us. We can either sell it to a gullible American and have it re-erected at enormous cost in the Arizona desert, or destroy it entirely.

It so happens that I have developed a new process which demolished buildings into their component parts and leaves every brick unburnt and clearly numbered. This is so that, when the inevitable protest comes from the sentimental British, the monument can speedily be re-erected at very little extra cost. I look forward to hearing from the owners, yours etc

From Mr Duncan Pilger

Sir. I have incontrovertible proof that in case of nuclear war, Temple Bar is to be used as a regional cause of traffic jams. It is well known that the Government will not let Londoners leave the capital after the balloon goes up, and that all roads are to be blocked by half-demolished monuments. I need only cite Kensington Town Hall, etc. There is no way Temple Bar will be brought back to London. It is part of the Government's war plans, as my forthcoming Channel 4 series will help to show, yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

Sir. We have got the Temple Bar. Let's see your money. We enclose a blank to show that we mean business, yours etc

From Mrs Mahonia Jackson

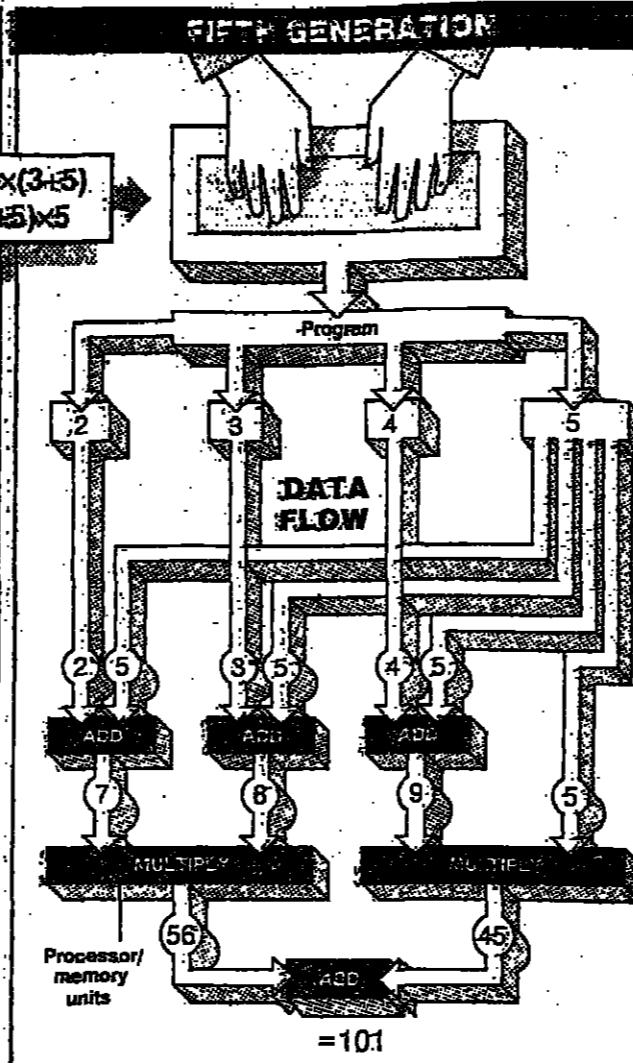
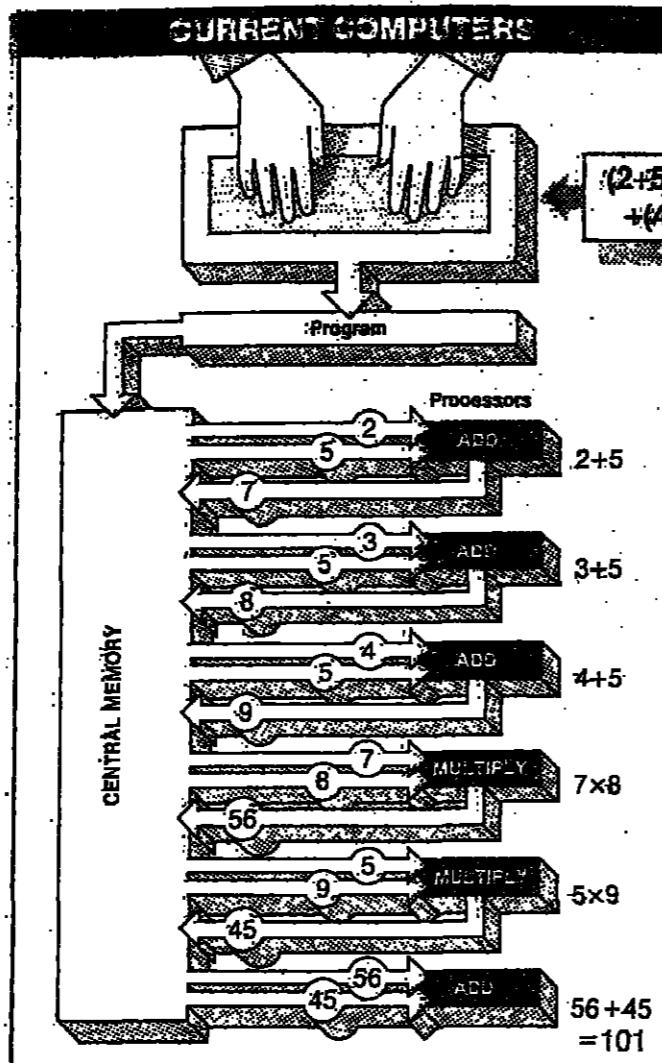
Sir. As someone who works in the Fleet Street area and knows that it is again, yours etc

already crowded enough without Temple Bar being brought back, I have a revolutionary suggestion: why not take Fleet Street out to Hertfordshire?

The newspaper industry would be much better suited to the back of beyond, where the lorries with their huge loads of what look like the world's biggest lavatory rolls would cause no traffic jams. While they are at it, they could take away those tramps who gather in the shadow of the hot air vents behind Bouvierie Street. I suppose they are all ex-editors of the News of the World, yours etc

From Mr A. Gang

Sir. There's been a mistake. This thing we have, it isn't Temple Bar. It's a disused shoe factory on the outskirts of Northampton. But the same threat holds good. Say £100. Well, £50. yours

**POLITICS****Generation of ideas**

Britain's answer to the lead, the Pentagon is the prime source of grants. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is prepared to spend \$1,000m over the next five years, twice as much as DARPA's expenditure on advanced computing over the past 20 years.

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The programme (drawn up in 1982 by a government committee under John Alvey, technical director of British Telecom) is concentrating on four key technologies:

• Software engineering, to give designers of information systems a more efficient way to generate their computer programs;

• The "man/machine" interface — in other words finding better ways for people to communicate with computers by touch, sight and voice (including machine recognition of continuous human speech);

• Intelligent knowledge-based systems, giving computers a body of expert knowledge about a subject and a program to apply it, such as medical diagnosis; and

• Very large scale integrated circuits (VLSI), to create the next generation of extremely powerful microchips.

Meanwhile the EEC is trying to set up an international project along similar lines, called Esprit (European Strategic Programme of Research of Information Technology). Preliminary studies are taking place in all 10 member countries, but final approval for the full-scale £800m programme is being delayed by wrangling over the Community's overall budget.

For computer scientists in the United States, Japan's Fifth Generation project provided the best possible tool with which to extract more money for artificial intelligence (AI) and super-computing.

Led by Professor Edward Feigenbaum, Stanford University's AI pioneer, they have successfully portrayed the Japanese effort as a threat to the present American dominance of the worldwide computing industry and therefore to "national security".

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At the same time the giant American electronics companies are showing unprecedented willingness to cooperate on long-range research. Twelve companies have formed the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC), a joint venture with an annual budget of £75m a year and led by Bobby Ray Inman, a respected retired admiral who previously ran the National Security Agency. Another undertaking is the Semiconductor Research Corporation; it sponsors work on the advanced chips.

The Japanese Fifth Generation Computer project caught the West's imagination from the moment of its public announcement in 1981. It is a 10-year cooperative effort by the government and electronics industry to develop computers that process "knowledge" and mimic human thought processes.

The Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT) in Tokyo, where the project is based, has 50 researchers chosen for their youth as well as their brilliance; all except the director are under 35. But many more scientists and engineers are involved in the laboratories of the eight major Japanese computer companies, and total expenditure may have exceeded £1,000m by 1991.

The blueprint for the Japanese Fifth Generation is based on ideas gathered mainly from American and European laboratories. But if they achieve even a fraction of their ambitions, no one in the 1990s will be able to criticize the Japanese for copying and perfecting rather than innovating.

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As usual when federal research funds are required to keep America in the lead, the Pentagon is the prime source of grants. The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is prepared to spend \$1,000m over the next five years, twice as much as DARPA's expenditure on advanced computing over the past 20 years.

At the same time the giant American electronics companies are showing unprecedented willingness to cooperate on long-range research. Twelve companies have formed the Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corporation (MCC), a joint venture with an annual budget of £75m a year and led by Bobby Ray Inman, a respected retired admiral who previously ran the National Security Agency. Another undertaking is the Semiconductor Research Corporation; it sponsors work on the advanced chips.

The Japanese Fifth Generation Computer project caught the West's imagination from the moment of its public announcement in 1981. It is a 10-year cooperative effort by the government and electronics industry to develop computers that process "knowledge" and mimic human thought processes.

The Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT) in Tokyo, where the project is based, has 50 researchers chosen for their youth as well as their brilliance; all except the director are under 35. But many more scientists and engineers are involved in the laboratories of the eight major Japanese computer companies, and total expenditure may have exceeded £1,000m by 1991.

The blueprint for the Japanese Fifth Generation is based on ideas gathered mainly from American and European laboratories. But if they achieve even a fraction of their ambitions, no one in the 1990s will be able to criticize the Japanese for copying and perfecting rather than innovating.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Sybille Bedford's past is there for all to deduce in the pages of her novels, but Clare Colvin discovers that her present is altogether more of a closed book

Journeys in a vanished world

Although Sybille Bedford's books clearly have a strong autobiographical element, she prefers that her own life remains an enigma. Yet has provided her with enough material to write three novels, crammed with detail about a cosmopolitan world of rich, restless people who spend much of their lives making train journeys to escape the consequences of their actions. It is a world that vanished some time between the wars, and it almost vanished in fiction too, but finally the novels are to be reprinted - a case of "Bedford Revisited".

She has been accused of indulging in nostalgia. Now, it seems, the wheel has come full circle.

"I can truthfully say I have never looked over my shoulder, and never looked at the market", she said when I met her. "I can write well only about something that has happened long ago. Sometimes you feel it is against the swim, but I think writers should write within their own range. If you are publicly accused of nostalgia, you find it very difficult not to be self-conscious. At the time I wrote *A Legacy* it seemed quite normal to be dealing with the 1870s and 1910."

In her youth, Sybille Bedford was shuttled back and forth across Germany, Italy, France and England in a series of family upheavals. She has now settled in a house in one of the prettiest parts of Chelsea, near the Embankment. As a connoisseur of good food and wine - the meals in her books are lovingly described - she is delighted with the neighbourhood shops where fresh pasta and other unEnglish things can be bought. The flat, in contrast to the opulence portrayed in her books, is sparsely furnished.

Her conversation is a mixture of hesitancy and a rush of words. In her novels the characters talk in brief,

staccato sentences, and she has the same brittle, though not unfriendly, style. She is hesitant about identifying the characters she writes about with herself or her family. I mentioned a paragraph in *A Compass Error* in which she dealt with the difficulty of writing. Mrs Bedford gently corrected me. That was, of course, the character of Flavia talking, not to be confused with herself, though she did indeed find writing as hard as ever. "I really shun work sometimes."

The autobiographical clues are evident, though. In *A Legacy*, a South German baron sends the younger of his two sons to a military school, the brutality of which causes the boy to go mad. Years later, still mad but a captain, he is shot by a corporal. The ensuing scandal - arising from the fact that a lunatic could be promoted in a crack Prussian regiment and draw full pay, rocks the Kaiser's government. Mrs Bedford is the daughter of a South German baron, and there had been a scandal when her father's brother was killed by a fellow officer, though the circumstances were different. She left Germany in the 1920s, at the age of nine, after the death of her father, and did not return until she reported on the Auschwitz trials in Frankfurt in the 1950s.

"The atmosphere of the book was based on what I remembered, and on family stories. It is written with great loathing of Germany, but with restraint. I never did any research and, looking at it now, I am surprised where I plucked all the material from. I do think that is the way a work of fiction should be written. Something swirls up in one's subconscious. I am astonished by the things I know and do not know how. When my father died,

the estate was sold and it was as if it had never happened - this German past. It stayed suspended in amber."

From Germany, the young Sybille was taken to Italy when her mother married an Italian. *A Favourite of the Gods* is about three generations of women - the American Anna who marries an Italian prince, her daughter Constanza, and Constanza's own daughter Flavia. There is a great sense of loss in the book. Anna, dazzled by Italy when she marries the prince, cannot adapt her North American puritanism to acceptance of her husband's infidelities, and she leaves the palazzo to live on her own after 20 years. The beautiful and intelligent Constanza is encouraged by her mother to make what turns out to be a disastrous marriage. Once "the favourite of the gods", she is rejected on all sides and retreats with Flavia to an isolated village in the south of France.

I suggested that the unfortunate marriage was the cause of Constanza's subsequent unhappiness, but Mrs Bedford felt that an outside agent could not be blamed. "We all ruin our own lives... I am sure we do. I set out to write about someone who is a 'favourite'. You have everything, good health, good looks, lively disposition, and then it goes wrong. I don't know what the answer is... you have to have something you are committed to."

Mrs Bedford's own mother was "a mixture of nationalities, partly Jewish - I cannot go into it, it is all too complicated". Together with Sybille's stepfather, they disseminated anti-Mussolini literature in the late 1920s. Sybille used to take from family to family copies of the *New Statesman* hidden under her pinapire, the theory being that if she were caught even Fascist Italians would not harm a child. Finally the

authorities hinted that her own

family were becoming

persona non

grata

and they retreated to settle in France.

It was in Provence, in the village of Sanary-sur-Mer that Sybille came across writers, and began her own writing. There was clique of Germans, including Thomas Mann and Bertold Brecht, "who thought they were gods and gave readings of their work in progress. I became great friends with the two eldest

children, but Thomas Mann was

very pompous. I thought his brother, Heinrich, was a great writer and I loved his son, Klaus, who killed himself after the war. Brian Howard used to come down in the evenings. He was immensely amusing and witty - for the first half of the evening. And then there was Aldous Huxley. I was such a fan of him as an adolescent that I insisted on being taken along to meet him."

Her friendship with the Huxleys

resulted many years later in her

writing a two-volume biography,

published in 1973 and 1974. For a novelist accustomed to inventing her work, dealing with detailed facts was "a labour of love". It was, she said, like wearing chains all the time". She wrote factual books on law cases, such as the Dr Bodkin Adams trial. "He was an eccentric man, munching apples in the dock. He was patently innocent, but he turned the medical profession against him." She wrote *The Faces of Justice*, a report on law courts in England, France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, and covered for newspapers the trial of Jack Ruby at Dallas, and the "Lady Chatterley" and Stephen Ward trials at the Old Bailey. Her interest in law stemmed from the age of 12 or 13, when a kindly policeman let her into the Courts of Justice. She wanted to become a barrister, but vagaries of the family fortunes intervened, and in any event, she was told, a woman's voice sounded silly in court. No one would ever take a woman barrister seriously.

Her third novel, *A Compass Error*, is set in a Provencal village called St Jean Flavia, 17, left on her own by her mother, who is travelling with a lover. It is taken up by a colony of artists and writers, and experiences her first love affair with the wife of an artist. This lesbian relationship is written about discreetly, but nevertheless it brings into the open what was only hinted at in the earlier books.

"People can be in love in an entirely platonic way, regardless of age or sex", Mrs Bedford said. "It happens all the time. You often find it between very young men and older women. It is difficult to write about love between women unconsciously, but by the time the story was published in 1969 the climate of opinion had changed. In the 1950s the topic was almost unmentionable. In the theatre at that time, half the men were 'queer', but if any of the women had the slightest inclination it was a great drawback for them. Now everybody is making too much of a fuss about it. I even heard the other day of a Richmond and Kingston-upon-Thames Gay Society..."

"I am not very feminist, but I believe there should be equal laws and equal taxation for men and women, and there are enormous difficulties between the sexes. Anyway, I seem to have got my own way, which you can do if you never explain, never apologize and never shock people."

A Favourite of the Gods and *A Compass Error* were published by Virago this month. *A Legacy* reappears in Fontana in May.

Residents in private homes who are not sponsored by a local authority or health authority may be eligible to have the full charge for the home met by supplementary benefit. In November last year arrangements for determining the level of charges were changed. Social security will now meet the highest reasonable charge for suitable accommodation in the area.

At the same time as opening up the scope for private entrepreneurs to increase their profit-margins, without regard to the needs of elderly residents, the Government is reducing the resources available to social services departments to maintain their own domiciliary and residential provision for the elderly.

The Department of Health and Social Security is schizophrenic in its approach. At a time of scarce resources cash is being made available for one sector of residential provision through the benefits side of the DHSS while resources for public services are being ever more tightly constrained with the concurrence of DHSS Ministers.

Model choice

From Roderigo Moynihan, Lausanne, Switzerland
I must correct the assumptions in Deborah Moggach's article on the Monday Page of February 6, on my work as a portrait painter. I like to paint from a model. Who and what they are is of secondary importance. Some of my more interesting portraits have been of academics".

Patricia Clough interprets the silent language behind the hugs and kisses

The Russian arms that mean goodwill

Have you ever noticed that governments, like individuals, have a body language?

Take Yuri Andropov's funeral in Moscow this week. In a long significant shot, Soviet television focussed on three men: Konstantin Chernenko, 72, the new leader Mikhail Gorbachev, 52 and Grigoriy Romanov, contender for the leadership. In official line-ups only a week before they had been placed well back; now they stood next to Mr Chernenko. The mute message which went out to millions of Soviet manwatchers seems clear: the younger, reform-minded men will have their chance next time.

It seems curious, in an age when governments have instant global communications, embassies full of diplomats and the media to convey messages, threats, assurances and subtle hints, and when public relations have been brought to a fine art, that it is often simple physical

gestures which reveal, more vividly than words, the real situations.

Body language is particularly important in communist countries which are not exactly famous for the openness of their decision-making processes or their trusting relations with other governments. Western diplomats in the communist blocks learn, like the inhabitants, to become highly-skilled political manwatchers, as quick to detect a non-verbal snub as they are to read between the lines in *Pravda*. For them, the Andropov funeral was a field day.

Richard Owen, *The Times* correspondent in Moscow and one of the few journalists present, says that at the post-funeral reception, Mrs Thatcher and Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, had long, more animated chats with Mr Chernenko, while the vice-president, George Bush was given a brief, cool greeting.

It was no coincidence: it is all symbolic of the policy of being nice to the Europeans and tough with the Americans - in the hopes of driving a wedge into NATO.

I once watched as West Germany's chief representative in communist East Berlin, Herr Günter Gaus, bade farewell to a top East German representative who had attended an official reception at the West German mission there. No sooner was the august visitor off the premises than Herr Gaus turned to his aides with shining eyes and enthused: "He stayed for 40 minutes! It was quite demonstrative!"

Well, I can't exactly remember if it was 40 minutes, but the man's physical presence at the party, sipping Sekt and indulging in polite, superficial chat, was of a length to indicate quite clearly to his hosts that Moscow had given the green light for a period of better relations.

No doubt the news was flashed instantly to Bonn.

The warmth of the embrace and the three kisses which the Russians bestow on visiting comrades is a useful guide to the diligence with which they toe the Moscow line. The bear hugs once inflicted on diminutive Chinese communist frames, for instance have now dwindled into polite handshakes.

Not many Poles tend to go to Moscow and it is not clear exactly what happens to those who do, but the standard airport photographs in the Polish papers do not show them being hugged.

Westerners on the whole are spared such effusions, though Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, paid the price for instance from President Leonid Brezhnev. (His pretty Norwegian wife Rut got an even warmer one,

but Kremlinologists rule out any political significance in this.)

Mr Brezhnev, however, had the tables turned on him at the signing of the Salt Treaty in Vienna in 1979 when President Carter, apparently carried away by all the detente, impulsively embraced him. The Russian leader was clearly stunned.

The style, of course, varies considerably according to character. Mr Brezhnev and his colourful predecessor, Nikita Khrushchev, were great huggers and kissers. Mr Gromyko, a colder personality, is rather bad at it.

So carefully calibrated is every formal welcome that a foreign visitor can immediately gauge his own importance in political or protocol terms. The rank of the person who meets him, whether he comes forward to the aircraft steps or stays put, the size of the car that takes him into town, the speed it is driven at are all subtly graded.

Old folk's drugs

A recent Royal College of Physicians report warned doctors to take care when prescribing drugs for old people. Many old folk are given too many drugs for the drugs for the wrong reasons, it argued.

Among other recommendations the report told doctors to tell any elderly person who needs a drug exactly why he or she needs it and when and how to take their pills. The report recommended written instructions to combat forgetfulness.

But research from America suggests that even if old people are told what to do they may physically not be able to tell one pill from another and that it is important to watch out for this pitfall too.

Peter Hurst and Julia Blevins from Arizona University asked a group of old people to distinguish between pairs of pills.

They found that some old people couldn't tell the between green and blue pills or white and yellow ones.

The reason for the difficulty the Americans report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* is probably that the lens of the eye tends to yellow with age, making vision less clear, creating problems with glare and making it hard to distinguish blues and greens.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

View from within the body

Prince Charles:
opened unit

sophisticated CAT scanners do. NMR uses magnetic fields around the body to create a picture.

But the real advantage is that NMR can "see" soft tissues of the body, such as the brain or nerve cells, more easily and clearly than other scanners.

Also NMR can be "tuned" into different molecules in body tissues and used to follow the chemical reactions.

At the National Hospital doctors will be using NMR to watch what happens to the nerve cells of people who develop multiple sclerosis. For the first time this will allow them to see precisely where the damage occurs and to find out if a treatment is working.

What is even more controversial is why the bones break:

bones do become thinner with age - the technical term is osteoporosis - but whether they also become more fragile is open to question.

Many patients who have broken their thigh bones, or femoral necks, do not have any problems, while many patients with advanced osteoporosis have never broken a leg.

Mr Zdenek Ralis, orthopaedic surgeon at the Welsh National School of Medicine, has made a remarkable discovery by examining bone tissue microscopically. Thinning does not in itself seem to be a problem. It is the quality of bones that deteriorates, but why some people's bones lose their strength remains a mystery.

Mr Ralis has managed to reverse the process of deteriorating quality (and thickness) by giving a group of patients a combination of fluoride, calcium and vitamin D. Over a 10-month period for a group of 32 patients, 75 per cent of the patients' bones become thicker and stronger.

He now wants to find out

BMJ were aware that they felt drowsy and weren't driving as well after the drug but were unable to do anything about it.

On the antihistamine triptolide however, the women drove just as well as when they hadn't taken any antihistamine at all.

Triptolide is one of two antihistamines which don't cause sleepiness. It proved so popular with doctors last year that it is now available from pharmacists without a prescription.

Some antiviral preparation, similar to Herpif or Zovirax, have been used successfully, and one patient in Texas was given another drug - cimetidine - best known as an anti-stomach-ulcer drug but is also known to have immuno-stimulating properties. The drug was given to see if it could help restore the patient's own defence mechanism. To the surprise of the doctor, the patient's herpes zoster infection started to improve dramatically.

It is early days to say whether cimetidine will ever take a place in the normal treatment of herpes: it is a powerful drug and should not be taken casually. People who do suffer from cold sores or genital herpes should continue to use the anti-viral agents, like Herpif or Zovirax, as they are designed specifically for the job.

Dr Tim Betts and his colleagues asked twelve experienced female drivers to take an antihistamine which causes drowsiness. The drivers, they report in the

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Brian Harris

TALKBACK

New code for caring

From Kina, Lady Avebury, Centre for Policy on Aging

Audrey Slaughter's gloomy article about the boom in private residential homes for elderly people (Friday Page, February 10) must be given your readers the disturbing impression that private residential care is completely out of control and that elderly people enter such an establishment at their peril. It is the Centre's experience, based on five years intensive work with non-statutory residential care homes, that the private sector provides both the best and the worst standards of care, so older people in homes are not invariably being exploited for profit.

More importantly, however, Miss Slaughter neglected to mention that new legislation and accompanying regulations are shortly to be introduced by the Government which will make it impossible for "beady-eyed businessmen" to open or operate a home without first being able to demonstrate their qualifications and aptitude for caring for dependent people. The legislation, moreover, will be backed by a code of practice which is being drawn up by an independent working party, sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Security, which will, for the first time, give social service departments and the public a yardstick by which

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THE TIMES DIARY

Spelling while Wales burns

As one with family connexions in a mid-Wales village rejoicing in the name of Penbontirhydbeddau, I can well understand the difficulties of the Clwyd fire brigade in actually finding their way to a fire. There are, for example, some 400 sizable places in Wales that have names beginning with Llan, and quite a number of them fall within the territory of the Clwyd firemen. Then there are all the Abers, Ponts, Pentres and Bryns to contend with. The brigade has been finding that it requires good spelling, superb pronunciation and excellent map-reading to get its engines to the place when they are needed. Of course, as with everything else these days, the answer lies in computers. The Clwyd firemen are to have a new command and control system which, through the use of microprocessors, will give headquarters and 18 fire stations an instant fix on all those tongue-twisting names. At £300,000, the equipment doesn't come cheap, but at least it will stop the land of their fathers burning down before they can find it.

Write and wrong

Anyone who thought a circulation war in Fleet Street could be nothing but a good deal for newspaper readers would have reckoned without the *Daily Express*. Express Newspapers has just been ticked off by the advertising authorities for making exaggerated and inaccurate claims for no fewer than three of its recent editorial offers, making a total of six complaints upheld against the group in the past year.

In one of the new cases the *Daily Express*, in its "Millionaires Club" promotion, offered £1 discounts on National Express luxury coach services without warning people that to take advantage of the offer they had to pay a £2 supplement on the ordinary fare. Spending £2 to save £1 is no way to become a millionaire. The other cases involved exaggerated claims for low-power electric spaceheaters, which complainants said would give no more heat than an ordinary light bulb, and slippers described as having cosy sheepskin liners which proved to be lined with man-made fibre. What was it that people used to say about not believing what you read in the papers?

Diplomaloo

The state of the lavatories at the ICA in The Mall, exclusively reported in this column, seems to have captured the sympathy of the nation. Letters and phone calls have been coming in to PHS daily, and now I have been privileged to see one of the designs for a new loo to be submitted to *Design magazine*, which is running a competition for the convenience of the ICA. Brenda Innes of Bromley has designed a circular, stainless steel, unisex lavatory and washroom which she says could be easily mass-produced and would probably be cheaper than the French-style superloo now appearing on London streets. Smaller than the building-site Portaloos, the Innes model is suitable for outside or indoor use, and seeing that it's intended for the ICA, could be decorated with posters. There must be something about it; the design helped Brenda to gain an Open University degree.

BARRY FANTONI



Along, no doubt, with the Victorian ham sandwiches

Succession story

Candidates for succession to Moss Evans as head of the country's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers, are keeping their eyes skinned for possible late entrants in the race. Their anxiety stems from the last election, in 1977, which Evans won. An outsider then was an ordinary union member named D. Thatcher who, although he came bottom of the poll, amassed a healthy 6,000 votes. T&G cynics believe Thatcher supporters thought they were voting for the husband of a future prime minister.

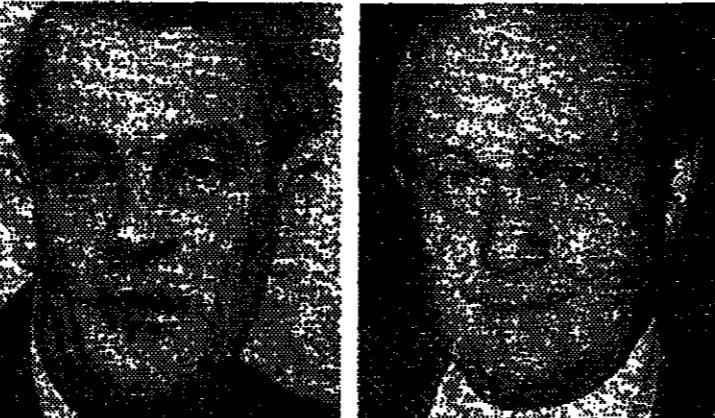
Out of touch

The spirited defence put up by British Telecom against charges of inefficiency in a recent *Hi-Fi* report cuts no ice with the International Institute of Communications. That worthy body - set up by telecommunications companies such as NTT of Japan and America's AT&T for the exchange of technology and discussion of policy - recently moved 100 yards to new offices in Tavistock House, London. Despite early warning of the move to the relevant authorities, the institute still has not a single working telephone or Telex and relies on the postman for contact with the outside world. One of the most active members of IIC is British Telecom.

PHYS

The post-mortem body shop

Bernard Levin: the way we die now



Tam Dalyell, left, and Sir John Biggs-Davison: surprising advocates of transplant legislation

There is something exquisitely symmetrical in the fact that, while debate rages over the question of changing the method by which trade union members contribute to Labour Party funds from "contracting out" to "contracting in", Parliament should have discussed a proposal to change the method by which the organs of dead people are made available for transplant from "contracting in" to "contracting out". My own trade union has no political levy, so I am not directly affected by the trade union question: on the other hand, my own kidneys have been with me for a long time now, and before I am willing to contract them in, out or sideways I would like not only to examine the existing and proposed safeguards against my bits and pieces being subjected to a process of transplant *in vivo* rather than *post mortem*, but also to think that before legislating for the change Parliament might rise to level of debate considerably higher than it did earlier this week.

What is surprising is that the leading advocates of the change were Sir John Biggs-Davison and Mr Tam Dalyell. Sir John has shown himself to be a man who thinks much and deeply about ethical problems, presumably through his religious convictions, while as for Mr Dalyell, he may be barmy (come, come, Levin, you were not wont to be so meaty-mouthed - he is barmy), but however irritating his campaigns may be, they have always been motivated by moral principles: his obsession with the Belgrano, after all, was derived not from a thrifty horror at the thought of all that irrecoverable scrap metal but from a different kind of horror at the thought of all those irrecoverable human beings.

Yet they both spoke as though the question of what is or should be, done with the bodies of the lately dead were of little more moment than that of what should be done with hair cut off at the barber's.

It is, of course, possible to take that very view, and it is clear that many in our society today do take it, though it is even more clear that ours is the first era in which it would have been taken by more than a very few, who would greatly have astonished their fellows. When we are dead, the argument runs, we have no more use for our bodies: if we have souls, they are independent of the earthly clay in which they are

temporarily housed, and the clay itself, once the breath is out of it, might as well be recycled in the interests of those who need it. What is wrong with that?

First, and most obvious, there is the double problem of the safe-guards and of what I have called, when discussing euthanasia, the Fallacy of the Altered Standpoint. The debate over the definition of death is by no means concluded, and it is hard to see how it ever will be, yet until we can say "this man is dead" with a certainty that is beyond even semantic dispute (let alone beyond the possibility that he may sit up and say "Oh, no, I'm not") the safe-guards will always remain beneath a cloud, however small, of doubt. This is not just a matter of a mistake by the doctors: it concerns the very nature and meaning of death, and the fact that modern medical science can ensure that patients may remain *in articulo mortis* for months on end makes the importance of that nature and meaning greater, not less.

Now for the Altered Standpoint. Some of my best friends are doctors, and as far as I know very few of them are practising vampires. I do not envisage should the controls on transplants be weakened, a sudden rush of ghouls in white coats to cut the hearts out of living bodies like so many Aztec priests. (Mind you, Ferdinand Sauerbruch was one of the greatest surgeons of modern times, but he ended mad as a hatter in a welter of butchery like a horror-film, protected by his august reputation.) But difficult as it is for

But that leaves the most important aspect of what has been proposed. It was argued on all hands that, since the number of those making a direct commitment to the medical use of their bodies (by signing and carrying a "kidney card") is insufficient for those whose lives could be saved or prolonged by such use, a new method of increasing the number of bodies available must be introduced. But if the MPs had been talking about increasing the production of sugar-beet by providing low-interest loans

to be killed, not oneself?

A human failing? That is no

failing: it is an instinct that enshrines one of the most glorious truths about mankind, which is that our faces are set towards the sun of life, not the darkness of death. We do not go about the streets wondering whether we are going to be run over, though we know the figures for road accidents; even the soldier in battle does not believe that the next bullet has his number on it.

This life force is inseparably bound up with the feeling that a dead body must be handled with care, precisely because it once contained life. Those who think of dead bodies as no more than a repository of spare parts, like a car-breaker's yard, have failed to gauge the strength of that feeling and, in their very proper zeal for helping those whose suffering could be alleviated if more of their fellow men would assign their bodies for alleviation, have made a profound mistake.

That is the truth that is nearly everything that has been written in the past week on this subject is speculation.

The confident assertions - to take

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A look at P & O's new £100m luxury cruise liner which will be "floated out" today at Wartsila's covered shipyard in Helsinki. Delivery is due in October.

JUST as the Princess of Wales is seen by many as a symbol of youthful resurgence in British public life, so the brilliant new P & O liner which will be named after her at the launch next November can be seen as a sign of resurgence of British cruising.

Britain invented cruising: more from necessity than choice. No other country in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had such a scatter of far-flung colonies, and such a huge fleet of passenger and cargo liners to transfer people and goods between them.

Most of these trades – to India and China, Australia and New Zealand, the Middle East, Africa, and South and North America – were seasonal, some highly so; and cruising evolved as an alternative source of employment when the liners were not needed for trade.

After the last war cargo became more and more separated into specialised cargo ships – but at the same time aircraft were making ever-greater inroads into passenger traffic on the old world routes, and liners concentrated more and more on that aspect of their business that had formerly been a stopgap.

The real trauma came in the early 1960s when P & O's Oriana and Cunard's QE2 were built.

All three ships were re-designed during planning, and ended much more cruise-ships than they began. But for many years after that P & O hesitated to take the ultimate step to a 100 per cent cruise ship with no line voyage commitments whatever.

This was a market developed primarily by those inspired shipping entrepreneurs, the Norwegians, who built a score or more of modest custom-built cruise ships, mostly around 20,000 tons, for about 600 passengers, through which the Caribbean cruise market based in Miami really took off in the 1960s and 1970s.

Cunard jumped in with their Countess and Princess; but P & O still Britain's (and indeed the world's) leading cruise line, continued to ponder, content in the 1970s to buy time by buying existing ships and with them an established foothold in the Californian market.

Though P & O cruising had been consistently profitable, the

profits were never big enough it seemed until 1982, to justify the massive cost of a big new cruiser like the Royal Princess. Capital costs alone, at more than £100m, require earnings of about £60,000 a day to service; and operating costs – pay for 600 staff, fuel, repairs and maintenance, insurance, food and drink, port charges, etc – come to substantially more.

What this adds up to is a charge of around £200 a day per passenger to make a viable proposition on what is (unusually among commercial projects) highly labour – as well as highly capital intensive.

Some 20 million people in the US can afford to pay those kind of prices for a holiday, researchers found, of whom some four million are ready and willing to do so on a Sea Princess cruise. As P & O's three existing California-based ships carry only about 100,000 passengers a year, the scope is clearly considerable – provided Royal Princess offers what the Americans want. What is that?

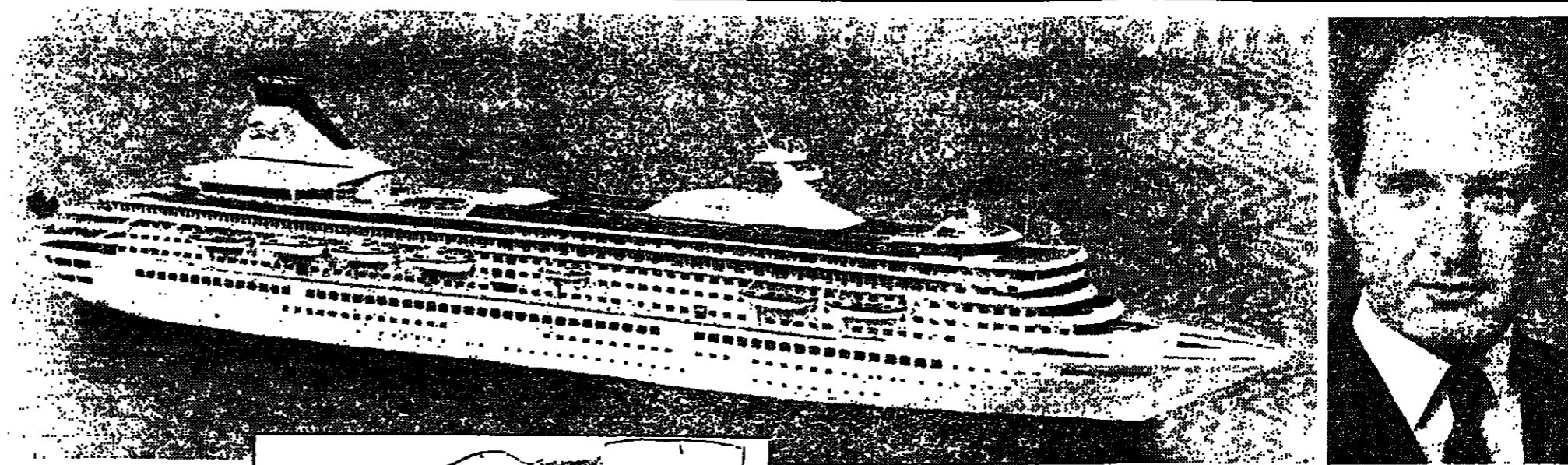
The prime requirements is top-class accommodation and service; and here Royal Princess clearly scores with for the first time on any ship every cabin offering a sea view. A cabin with a porthole (these days a picture window) has always been highly in demand but in former days, when passengers had to share the hull with cargo, with bigger engines than today, and with bulkier equipment and services, only a minority of passengers were able to get it. For this they paid premiums.

Two earlier ways of trying to give inside cabins a glimpse of daylight and the sea were the "Bibby" cabin which extended a narrow arm out to the ship's side, often ending in a small porthole and a washbasin; and the greatly improved Canberra "courtyard" cabin, where a batch of six cabins look out on to a shared courtyard with a large sea view.

In the Royal Princess all such devices are swept away in favour of a panoramic view of the sea, sky, and ports of call from every cabin, in many cases from its own private veranda. It should be enormously popular, and is backed up with other cabin features designed specially for the US market.

Royal Princess

A SPECIAL REPORT



A model of the Royal Princess in which every cabin has a sea view, and left, one of the lounges. Right, Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of P & O, who built the liner.

The pride and pleasure

Jeffrey Sterling, a leading figure in the property world, became chairman of P & O last November at the height of the take-over battle with Cunard/Trafalgar House; presumably because the P & O board thought him the best man to fight off the bid. Aged 49, he is clearly a formidable entrepreneur, but also a man of culture and compassion: he is chairman of the Royal Ballet School and vice-chairman of Motability, which helps the disabled. Here he talks to Michael Baily, our Transport Editor.

Michael Baily: Why did you become Chairman of P & O?

Jeffrey Sterling: Because I was asked. I had gained an insight into the group as a non-executive director. It is a fascinating company not only because of its standing and tradition but also because of its spread of operations. Its businesses range from virtually all forms of surface transport to the Bovis housebuilding and construction companies, and its international base adds not only an interesting complexity but also an immediate dimension of opportunity. A unique combination – history and opportunity.

MB: How do you see the prospect?

JS: One must beware of oversimplification. I believe our future will be as every bit exciting as our past. We have

already embarked upon the process of accelerating into this decade and, strategically, the latter half of this century. P&O, like any other enterprise, is about people – their quality, their attitudes, their motivations. There is a will to succeed in P&O at all levels, a positive response to new ideas. As chairman I see the key to the future as motivation; surely that must be a priority of every manager.

P&O with its national and international spread of businesses is poised and well-balanced. It has weathered massive recession in shipping and done so successfully. That company ethos I referred to is the engine, as it were, of its development and motivation is the fuel.

If we could identify future economic trends and international market movements we would have no problems. We can't. However, what we can do is make informed judgments about possible trends and be thoroughly prepared to move with them.

The shipping industry is a classic example of that situation. Relatively large, long term capital investments that are very sensitive to world trade cycles. An added complexity is that the industry itself is multifaceted. The rolling recession of the 1970s is evidence of that. Cargo liner trades, passenger

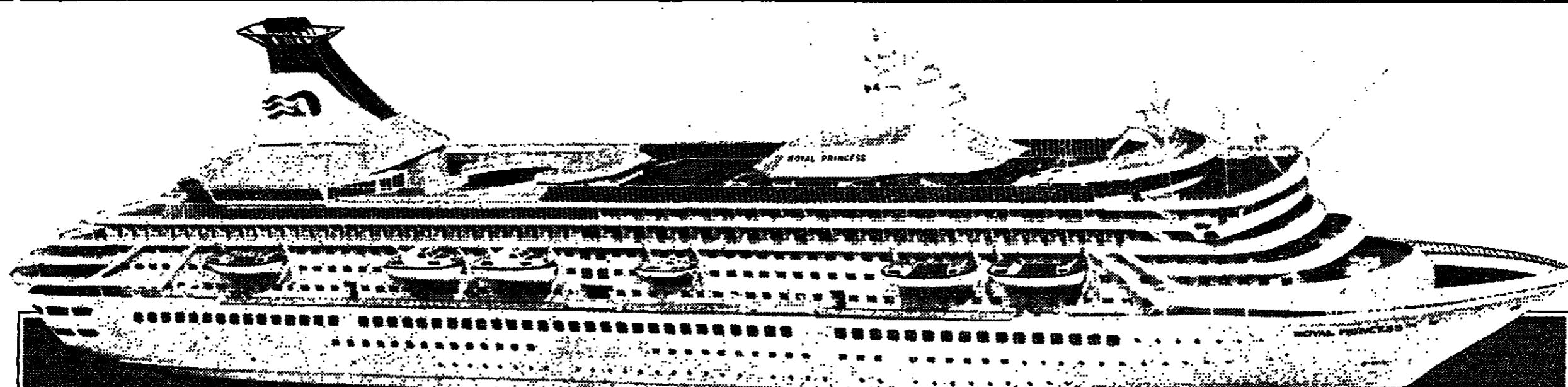
trades, the gas trades all had their own cycles. There was no simultaneity. Thus timing becomes crucial.

MB: Has cruising a good future? Is Royal Princess a good investment?

JS: First cruising. In international terms it is a growth market, very much part of the leisure industry. The north American sector is massive and contains a big potential for growth. We have, in Princess Cruises, a well established market position in that area; a fleet of three cruise ships – Royal Princess will make it four.

It is a very competitive market place. Remember, the leisure market is governed by discretionary spending. Growth relies upon disposable income. We operate at the top end of that market. Thus product design, quality and service are essentially important to us. I believe a company should concentrate on what it is good at – P&O is unequalled at running ships and taking care of people.

As a cruise operator we are world leaders in all three of our main markets – Europe, USA and Australia. P&O ships like Sea Princess, Canberra and Oriana are household names synonymous with luxury and world travel.



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Why the cruisers keep on coming back

The average cost of a package holiday in the Mediterranean to the British holidaymaker is £175-£250. The average cost of a motoring holiday in Europe for a family of four (two adults and two children) whether packaged or not is about £500.

The average cost of a cruise is £1000-£1200. A cruise costs about five times as much as a holiday in a beach hotel, and that no doubt accounts for the small share of the holiday market occupied by cruising.

Of some fourteen million Britons who will take a holiday abroad this year, under 100,000 will cruise. About half the total will take package holidays of one sort or another and about twelve million will holiday in Europe via the car ferries.

Yet if cruising attracts a necessarily small clientele it is a devoted one. Market research shows that those who take a cruise keep on doing it, not every year but once every so often.

Package holidays generally attract little or no brand loyalty. Holidaymakers who were particularly pleased with Thomas Cook or Thomson one year will doubtless look to them first the following year, but generally the package holiday-maker feels free to shop around afresh each year, as to both operator and type of holiday.

That is not the case with cruising. Some 25-35 per cent of the cruise passengers have made a voyage previously, and in the case of P&O this rises to 60 per cent - an amazing degree of brand loyalty.

Why do they do it? Cunard in their Atlantic advertisements used to say that "getting there is half the fun." In other words, if you must go to New York (or Europe) why not enjoy the journey as much as the destination? Take your wife, be pampered for five days in elegant surroundings among

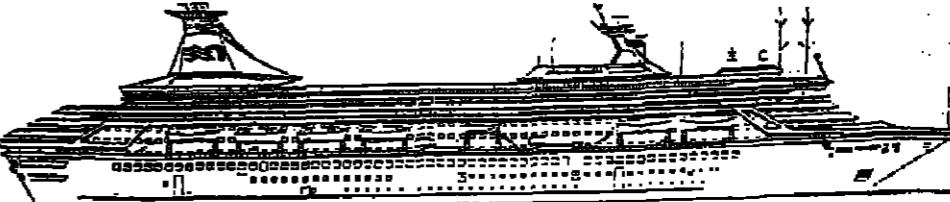
people who, like yourself, enjoy a taste of luxury living.

But the Atlantic is not always kind, and the jet does it so much faster. By the 1970s P&O's slogan "The holiday has everything" was more apposite. Ships had ceased, with a few very minor exceptions, to offer transportation, and had become a part of the leisure market.

They did so initially largely to those who had enjoyed sea voyages in their previous role - former colonials, top businessmen and entrepreneurs, people who liked being waited on in an exclusive atmosphere; an atmosphere that excluded the package holiday crowds.

For a time cruising went down market, and tried to attract the holiday camper with a kind of "knees up Mother Brown" atmosphere. But it was not a success - partly because providing cruises is an inherently costly business, and it was impossible to get package cruises down to a price the market would stand and still make a profit.

So cruising resumed its place at the head of the holiday



What it costs to go cruising

Cruises from UK ports	Fly-cruise from UK
£200 four days Cunard QE2	£400 7-day Chandris or Siosa
£400 CTC (Russian) 14 days in low-rated cabin	£500 7-day Vacatiner
£500 CTC 15-day cruise	£500 7-day Interrcruise La Palma or ten-day Costa
£500 CTC 14-day bettergrade cabin	£1,000 13-day CTC, or P & O Swan Hellenic
7-day QE2	£1,100 14-day P & O
£700 8-day QE2	£1,400 14-day Cunard, Royal Viking
£800 14-day CTC	
8-day QE2	
£1,000 12-day QE2	
14-day P & O	
£1,100 15-day Cunard or Royal Viking Line	
£1,700 38-day Polish Ocean Lines; 15-day Royal Viking	
£2,000 26-day P & O	

Caribbean Fly-cruise
£700 8-day Bahama Cruise Lines
£800 8-day Norwegian Caribbean
£1,000 9-day Royal Caribbean
£1,400 15-day Cunard
£1,400 15-day Cunard

market; but with marked attempts by cruise operators to provide something more than the sea voyage and attentive service erstwhile voyagers had enjoyed: night clubs, concerts, deck sports, entertainments and activities of all kinds so that, if you did not want to while away your time sipping cocktails and spotting dolphins there were plenty of other things to do.

The Royal Princess is merely the latest of a dozen or so new

or converted cruise-ships to arrive on the international market this year and last, and the massive investment involved suggests a confidence by the operators that there is a lasting future for it.

The attempt to attract more custom by going down market has been abandoned. But there is a definite trend towards attracting the young and fancy-free especially in the United States where all manner of cut-price incentives are available to woo the floating holiday voter to make a last-minute decision to take a cruise and make sure the ships sail reasonably full.

Cruising remains an expensive holiday, as the accompanying table shows. But provided operators keep the standards high there should be a huge market to be tapped as both wealth and leisure continue to increase.

Michael Baily
Transport Editor

40,000 pieces of restaurant silverware, while a similar number of tableware pieces will come from Steele International of Stoke-on-Trent.

Charterweave, an Oxfordshire company, has won an order to provide 4,000 blankets most made from Merino wool, and Metlex Industries of Croydon, Surrey, is producing 4,600 chrome plated bathroom fittings.

British expertise in cathodic protection for ships' hulls and is recognised with the use by Wartsila of an automatic system from the Morgan Berkeley Marine division of Corritone of Winchester.

The Royal Princess contract is worth £7,500. The Corritone system involves the application of an electrical charge over the whole immersed surface of the hull. This eliminates corrosion and helps to prevent roughness thereby enabling the ship to maintain the minimum drag resistance.

In bad weather passengers should particularly appreciate the Gyrofin stabilizers produced by Sperry Marine Systems of Camberley, Surrey. Each fin weighs 77 tons, and has a 90 horsepower unit which provides 30 tonnes lift at 18 knots. This, says the company, should reduce the ship's roll up to 90 per cent.

Edward Townsend

Eating, walking and sleeping British

Chief difference with traditional lifeboats is that those of the Royal Princess will have enclosed fore and aft sections and be equipped with portable cookers for the centre. Two of the boats are fitted with British made Marconi radio stations.

The ship's communications system is to be the Mascot 2000 of STC International Marine, said to be the only British satellite communications terminal approved by the International Maritime Satellite Organization.

STC's system, designed, developed and produced at the company's plant at Mitcham, Surrey, provides two-way voice, telex, facsimile and data transmission. The ship's main radio station will incorporate a new solid state transmitter/receiver which, said STC, is the first of its type to be used at sea.

Another advanced STC product is the automatic direction finder controlled by micro processor, which analyses radio direction beacon signals and gives an immediate longitude/latitude position. In total the STC contracts are worth £110,000.

Tynesside, one of Britain's

Wynstremes of Gloucester, for example, which specialises in marine window wipers, will be provided six units of their heavy duty model equipment that passengers certainly will hope never to see in operation.

The ship will be equipped with 40 25-person liferafts supplied by RFD Inflatables of Godalming, Surrey, and eight lifeboats and two rescue boats from the Survival Craft division of Gosport-based Watercraft.

BMK's order is for 9,000 square metres of mostly tufted broadloom carpet.

Parkin Silversmiths of Sheffield, with 275 years of cutlery-making experience, will supply

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No room for nostalgia in this floating hotel

To the hardy British, brought up to believe they are members of a seafaring nation, sailors all and proud of generations of shipbuilding skills, the interior design of the Royal Princess will provoke, at best, incredulity.

The surprise will be heightened by the knowledge that this floating hotel is aimed not at mid-western America, with its image of staid conservatism, but at laid-back, fun-loving west coasters.

P&O, on the other hand, know better. Nostalgia is out when it comes to Americans' choice of an ocean cruise. Creaking timbers, bunks, port holes and the like are all very well for the *Ocean Liner* but not for today's big spending vacationers.

The Royal Princess, while plush, expensive, superbly comfortable and cossetting, will nevertheless reflect from the inside the bland sameness of the international hotel.

Apart from the gentle rolling of the ship – and most of the time even that should be undetectable thanks to the stabilizers – passengers (or perhaps they should be called residents) will have to remind themselves that they are at sea and not in one of those faceless impersonal edifices of international tourism that can be found in capital cities around the world.

The sales brochure for the maiden voyage uses adjectives chosen, no doubt, to impress rather than entice. It is, says P&O, "the ship destined to become a legend"; various bits of it are described in the blurb as "elegant, spacious, lavish, panoramic, gracious".

The ultra modern design in a ship that has a startling and unique lay-out, is the work of a Norwegian, Njal Eide, one of the world's most experienced cruise ship interior decorators. He scoffs at suggestions that the Royal Princess will reflect little that is nautical and stresses the overall aim to achieve a fashionable, quality image.

He reminds the traditionalists that the big Atlantic liners of the past had few interior indications of sea voyaging and were often equipped with heavy, overpowering furniture and fittings designed for houses. "Some of them were like cathedrals," he says.

"The product brief in this

case was to incorporate in the decor a West Coast image combined with good basic English and European cruise ship traditions."

The unusual configuration of the ship's facilities and the provision of up-to-date luxuries like two jacuzzis, clearly assisted in the achievement of an impression of up-market modernity.

All of the cabins on the Royal Princess are located onboard and have large picture windows, a bath with shower, television, refrigerator and "environmental control". A private balcony, a sort of mini personal deck, is provided for 152 of the more pricey cabins and staterooms.

The ship will have almost

two acres of public deck – more, says P&O, than any other cruise ship afloat. The main deck extends the whole length and breadth of the ship. Here are located all the main meeting places, including a two-storey show lounge and casino, with the middle section built between two promenades where there are a cafe, library, card room, shopping area, boutiques and children's play room. The restaurant is on the deck below.

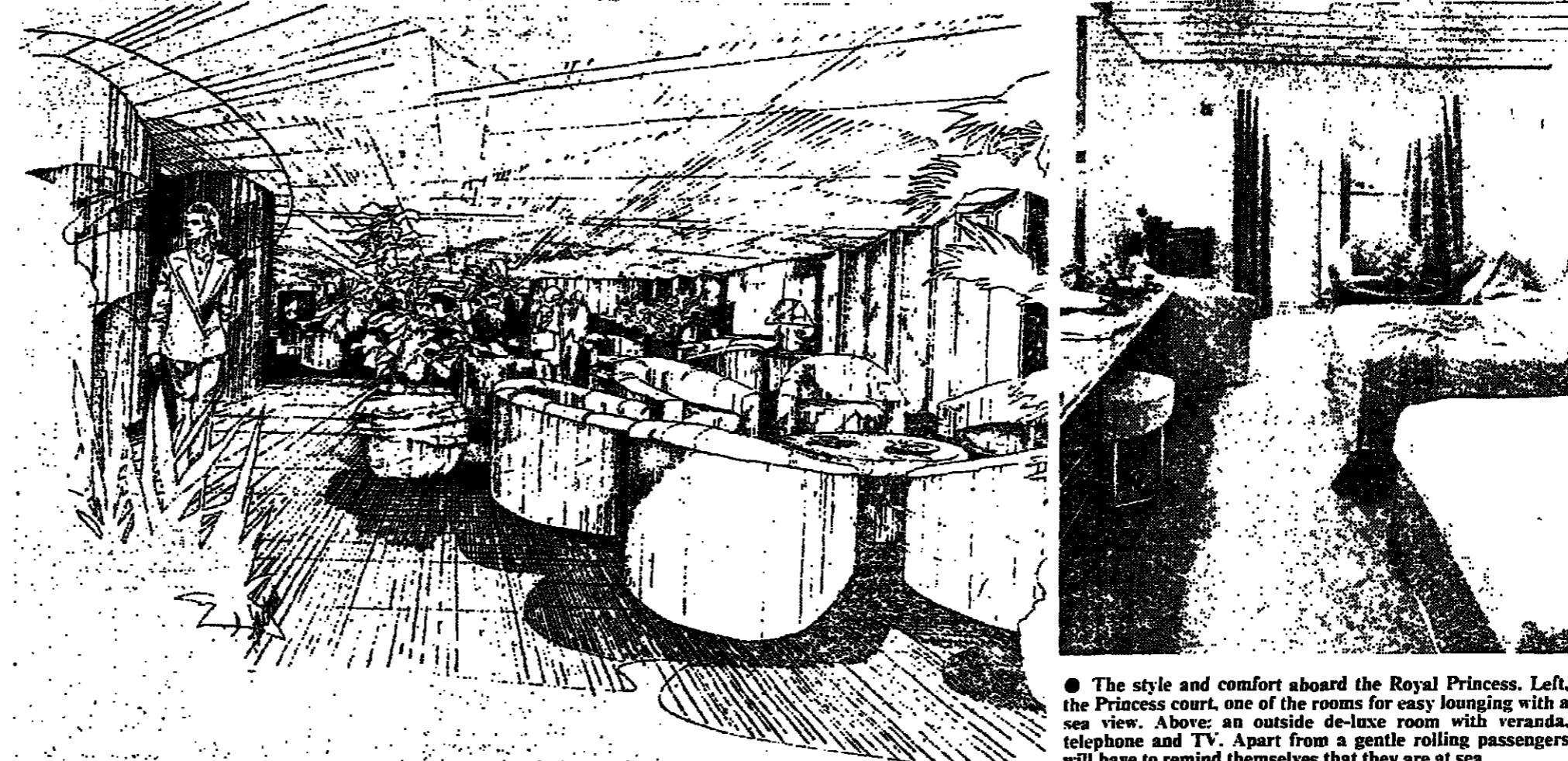
To judge from the mock-ups and drawings, it would appear that the interior design will not be breathtaking. But the unctuous simplicity of its lines and forms and its muted conservatism will undoubtedly appeal in its main market.

Getting the feeling on board of executive luxury

The cabins are decorated in pastel colours, a departure from the strong contrasts often adopted on European cruise ships, and there is a greater degree of colour coordination.

This appears to have been essential because of the strict requirement to use materials that are non-flammable "families", used, for cost reasons, throughout the ship and which restrict the designer's freedom.

Mr Eide was able, however, to use some real taste (although



● The style and comfort aboard the Royal Princess. Left, the Princess court, one of the rooms for easy lounging with a sea view. Above, an outside de-luxe room with veranda, telephone and TV. Apart from a gentle rolling passengers will have to remind themselves that they are at sea.

See TV for what's on tonight's menu

on a ship so it is very important to create places for different moods without making it look cheap."

The main feature of the ship, on the main deck, is the central hall, designed by Mr Eide to be the principal meeting point, "a place through which people drift, like a hotel lounge or foyer."

To give an "English" feel to the cabins, the beds are provided with skirts, which heightens the hotel look as well as diminishing any sense of ship's bunks. Mr Eide was also able to use considerable amounts of woollen textiles which, again, he hopes will soften the use of laminates and metals.

The spaciousness and calmness of a big hotel is further accentuated by the distribution throughout the ship of 175 large tubes containing almost 1,700 plants.

Another part of the design brief was to allow for optimum flexibility in the public areas. As Mr Eide puts it: "The idea is to start at 10 in the morning with a room for playing bingo and end up at night with a fashionable and beautiful show lounge."

Equally, the observation lounge, with its "nice, gentle" daytime aura, becomes, with the skilful use of lights, a heaving disco at night.

"There is nowhere else to go

Edward Townsend

operates through economisers and burns high viscosity, low efficiency fuel.

The significance is that the engines, which also generate electric power for the entire ship, and the two boilers utilise the cheap bottom-of-the-barrel "dirty" oil. David McKee, P&O Cruises' technical manager in Southampton, said: "The fuel these engines can cope with is not even on the market yet. It is the sort that the experts tell us we will be pleased to accept in a few years' time."

By using the main diesel engines to drive the alternators, the load on the engines can be kept at optimum level. At least one engine, therefore, will be running at all times driving one alternator – sufficient to power the ship.

P&O says that on the new ship, fuel charges should be only 3 per cent of total operating costs against about 25 per cent for the *Camberra*.

To start in the bowels of the ship, the least glamorous, but possibly the most important, technological advance is in the engine room. Here are installed the four main Wärtsilä Pielstick engines arranged in pairs, each of which develops 9,900 hp.

equipment would enable much greater efficiency and control.

The air conditioning system is claimed to be the most advanced and efficient available and the emphasis on running cost reduction for the ship has led to a large amount of insulation for the inside skin of the vessel and double glazing.

Exhaust heat from the engines will not be wasted. It will be taken up by the economisers which are installed in the funnel, and not as normal on the engines themselves, to produce steam for heating.

On the electronics front, the Royal Princess will be equipped with the latest British designed and made satellite communications system. This will allow passengers to make and receive "secure" business and personal telephone calls as easily, it is claimed, as if they were on shore.

A large IBM computer will deal with all aspects of the ship's operation and any activity that generates money sales. All transactions like bar bills, laundry and hairdressing charges will be added automatically to customers' accounts.

The television system is

particularly novel. All the cabins will have an eight-channel colour TV which, when in port, can broadcast up to four of the local station programmes. There are also two video channels and a live, on-board channel.

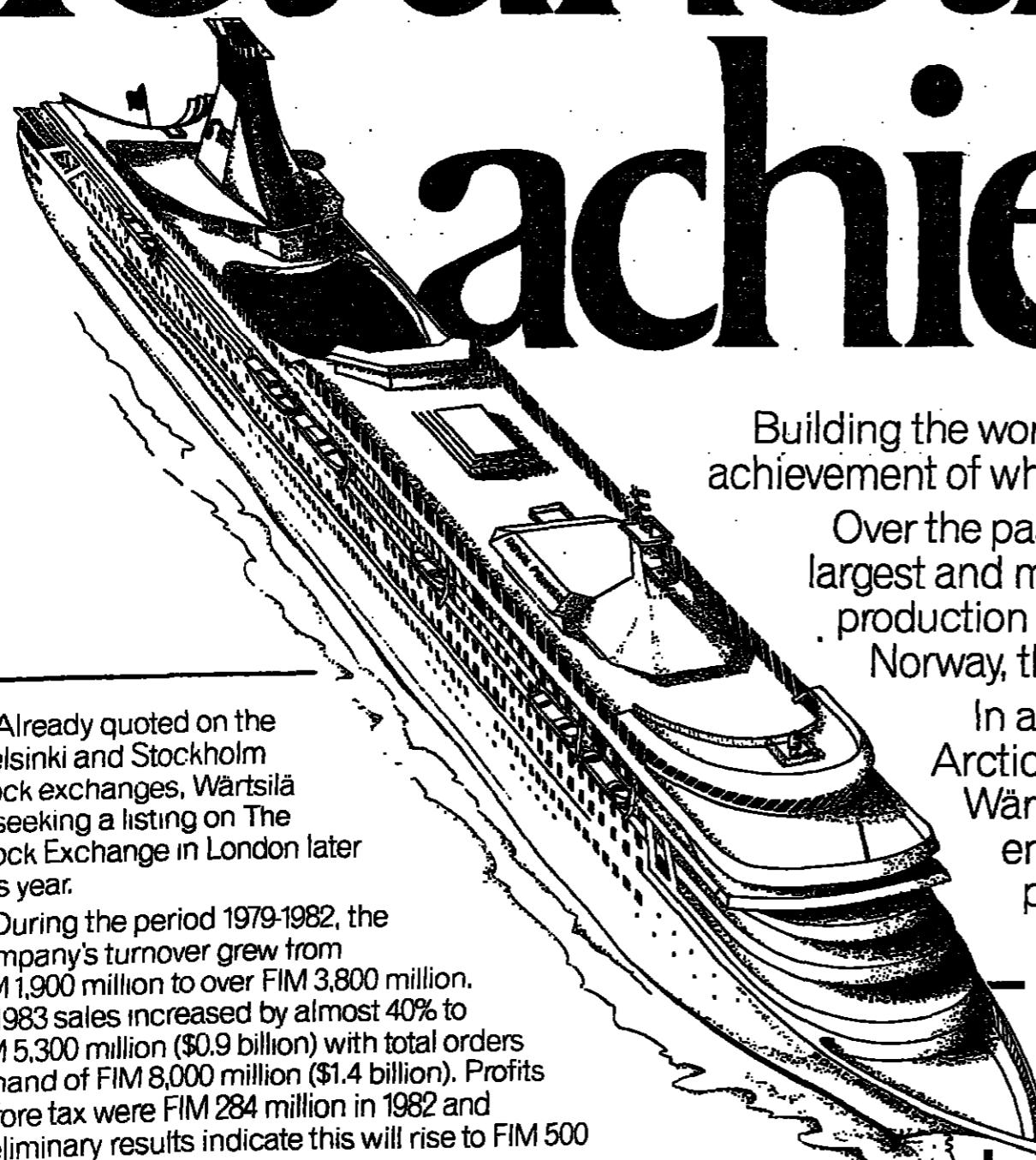
On-board cameras will relay to passengers a variety of events including water sports from the swimming pool or simply the view of the outside world.

The system also has an advanced teletext facility, with a large number of pages, that will enable passengers to call up a variety of information ranging from details of the next port of call to the evening's dinner menu, and even the latest bargains in the ship's shops.

Wärtsilä's unique design for the Royal Princess, with all of the cabins situated on the outside and at the top of the vessel, has enabled the centre of the ship to take the air conditioning machinery, staircases, lifts and all the ducts for wiring and pipes. All these services are situated between the fore and aft bulkheads and allow maintenance to be done without passenger disturbance.

E. T.

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Snowfalls do not stop work

The shipyard: ready on time

Wartsila, the builder of the Royal Princess, is not one of the biggest shipbuilders in the world, but is first in two important and profitable sectors, luxury cruise liners and Arctic vessels, including ice-breakers.

"We do not try to compete in the field of simple and inexpensive ships", says Martin Saarikangas, managing director of Wartsila's Helsinki shipyard, which is a landmark in the centre of the port city.

The Royal Princess has been prepared for the floating out operation in a covered 400,000 cubic metre dry dock, where Helsinki's heavy snowfall does not hamper work.

The floating out of the Royal Princess, which is eleven metres longer than the dry dock, will be a tricky business, because the western harbour is very narrow and full of broken ice.

"We are using the most modern methods", Mr Saarikangas said, "and this enables us to complete the ship in a very short time. The order was placed in April, 1982, and the ship will be delivered in October this year."

"Our competitiveness is

based on several things, he said. First of all, the Royal Princess is a totally new concept, which features among other things our AOC design, which means "all outside cabins".

"We have also been able to establish a high reputation on the passenger cruise liner market, of which we hold about 30 per cent. We have always been reliable, and all passenger ships we have built have been delivered on time."

Wartsila's design philosophy means that the operator will get exactly the ship it needs. As an example of Wartsila's shipbuilding division's innovative capacity, the company has delivered 51 different new types of ships during the past ten years.

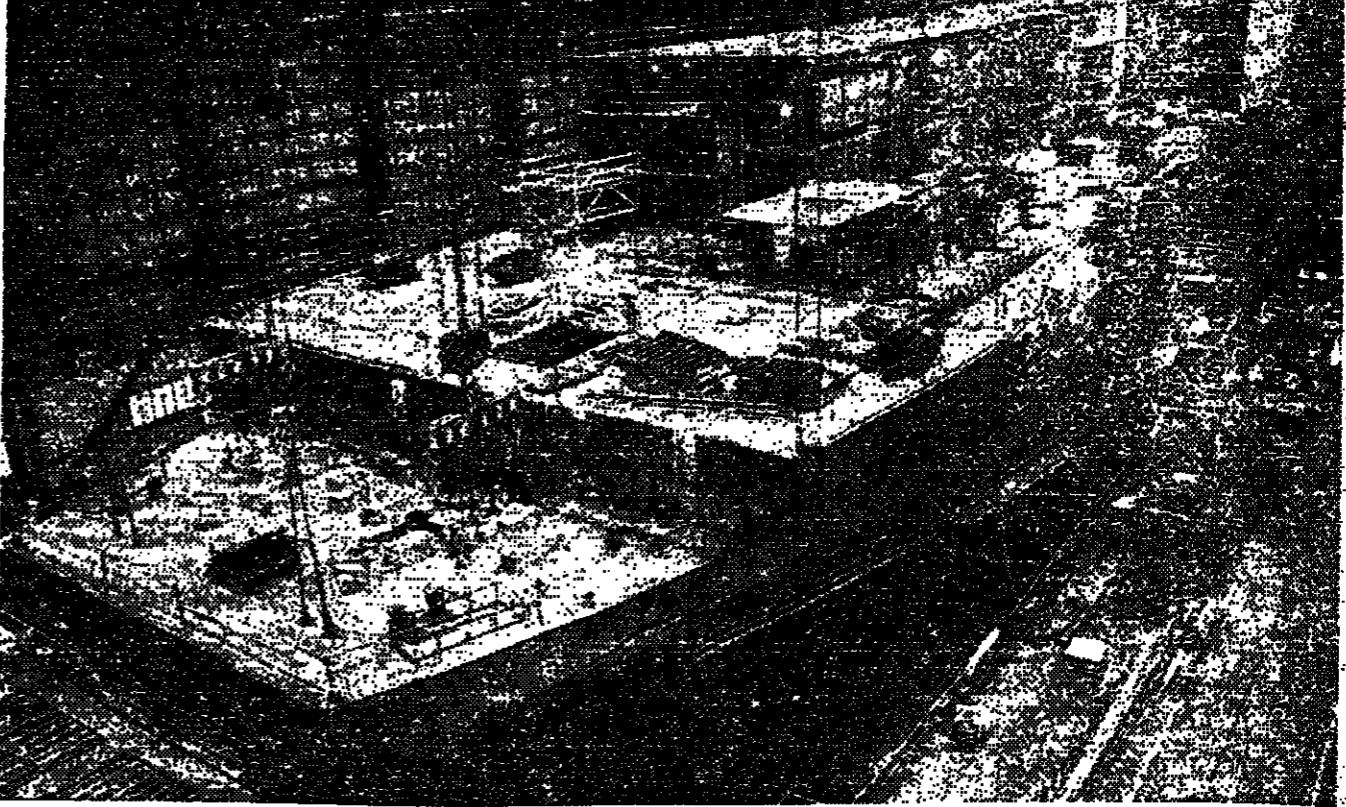
Mr Saarikangas is certain that the cruise market will grow an average of 10-15 per cent a year. He cites the example of cruise ferry traffic between Helsinki and Stockholm. Hugely improved ferries increased the capacity on this route four fold a few years ago. And the cruise ferries have been sold out ever since. This means more than seven million passengers a year. The same as the number of cruises sold in the whole of the United States in a year.

Wartsila objects strongly to subsidies to the shipbuilding industry. "Subsidies bring down productivity, work moral and competitiveness, and it leads to the need of more and more subsidies. So, many European countries have ended up with 20-25 per cent subsidies", says Mr Saarikangas. In Finland, subsidies have been used up in two separate cases.

Finland's hard winters force the country to have a fleet of powerful ice-breakers, which can keep the sea lanes open all through the winter. This has enabled Wartsila to become the leading ice-breaker builder in the world.

In fact, 60 per cent of the ice-breakers built after the second world war have been built by Wartsila, nearly 50 in total, and several are on order.

Most of the specialized arctic ships have been built for the Soviet Union. The bilateral barter trade between Finland and the Soviet Union is based



Building the Royal Princess in a covered dry dock in Finland: she will be floated out today.

Philippa Toomey looks back at tougher cruising days

Food on the hoof, and perhaps the water will come in . . .

The sea, the sun, good food, good company, floating to exotic destinations in all the romance of a sea voyage - the Finns got the price in goods, but the trade had great advantages for a country like Finland, which cannot compete with credit terms with the major countries. The Soviet trade does not credit.

The value of the Soviet trade

for Wartsila is on average about 25 per cent of the turnover.

Five years ago the company had no production outside Finland, and now it has production units in Europe, Asia and north America. Exports and overseas production accounts for 85 per cent of sales.

Wartsila has also decided to make an equity issue on the international market later this year. It also intends to apply for a listing for all of its free series two shares on the London Stock Exchange. It will be the first Finnish company seeking listing in London.

Wartsila is already listed in Helsinki and Stockholm, where a successful issue took place last spring.

In addition to being number one on cruise liners and Arctic shipbuilding Wartsila is among the three leaders in papermaking machinery, among the four in marine diesels and among the ten in locks and security devices.

Olli Kivinen

deck was disgracefully dirty, a perfect pandemonium".

Contemporary drawings and photographs show ladies and gentlemen dressed up to the nines, collars, ties, jackets, crinolines, everyone wearing a hat, sitting around on deck in the tropical sun at temperatures of over 100 degrees.

The P & O line was started

by two men with an eye to the main chance (and to the future): Arthur Anderson, born in Orkney, served in the Royal Navy in 1858 and after the Napoleonic wars, started as a clerk in a shipbroking and agency business in London, founded by Brodie McGhee, Willcox. The two men became partners chartering small vessels to the Spanish Peninsular.

They backed the winning side in the civil war in Portugal, and were lucky enough to do the same in the Spanish Civil War - a link which enabled them to obtain the contract to carry the Royal Mail to the Peninsular at a contract rate of £29,000 a year, a very large sum of money indeed.

During the 1914-18 war, many of the P & O liners were converted to armed merchant cruisers or troopers, and there

were also many losses. After the war, much larger ships were built, with more consideration given to passenger comfort. In the Meola and Maloja (both 26,000 tons) there were no inside cabins and both first and second class had porches.

By the 1930s, all cabins had running water (hot and cold in First Class). The music room departed, the swimming pool arrived. Second class became tourist.

Even so, the class structure remained, and at the P & O AGM in 1927, Lord Illecippe (the chairman) said that some amusement had been caused by "a man who had been on a Ranchi cruise wrote me the other day, saying he thought we ought to have a strict list for those who proposed to go on our cruising voyages. He suggested that no man should be booked unless he could show that he was a member of a good London club, and that no lady should be accepted unless she had been presented at Court".

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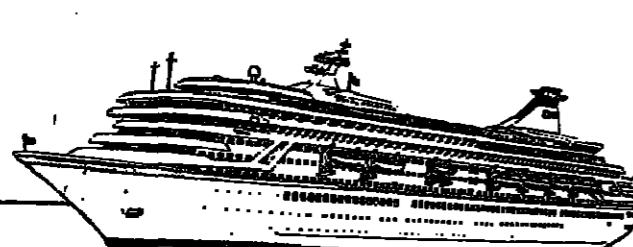
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DECISIONS POSTPONED

Triumphantly, the Government yesterday unveiled a white paper designed to prove that public spending is at last under control. That claim has been made too often in the past to be taken at its face value; there has been a real rise in public expenditure every year since 1979, and today it absorbs 2.5 per cent more of national income than it did in Labour's last year.

But the new plans, implying no further real rise over the next three years, do at last look attainable. Admittedly, the Government is still very bad at forecasting social security spending, which inevitably depends on the number of claimants – it has even had to increase its estimate of next year's bill by £1.300 million during the past few months. The white paper is still too optimistic about Whitehall's degree of control over local authority spending. And its targets for nationalized industries' supply of backdoor taxation, in the form of monopoly profits fed into the exchequer, still look over-ambitious. But at last the Treasury has made room within the totals for a reserve against unexpected contingencies that looks adequate.

All this, however, is a meagre harvest from five years of constant struggle over departmental budgets and hasty, ill-considered, last-minute cuts to keep the total under control. Nor is this over. These are only plans, after all; the further sharp cuts they imply in many departments have still to be translated into action. Yet none of them is based on a radical reappraisal of these departments' responsibilities. They are still largely based on a nibble here, a squeeze there, with the contingency

reserve ready to dole out to any minister who can get the prime minister on his side. The only difference with these targets is that the contingency reserve is big enough to absorb special pleading or the easing of impossible demands without breaching the overall limit. (The reserve, indeed, is big enough to arouse another suspicion: that Mr Lawson intends to dangle it over his colleagues' heads as a possible source of tax cuts if they can trim their budgets enough.)

Hitting targets is better than missing them; but it is not the real battle. The achievement the Government is now congratulating itself upon, after five years in office, is merely to have checked the upward drift in public spending at a time when rising output should enable it to do better. Even Messrs Callaghan and Healey, scorned by Mrs Thatcher for their economic management, did briefly succeed in making a real dent in public spending in the late 1970s. Yet Mrs Thatcher seems to have lost her ambition to do so. Only last month, on ITV's Weekend World programme, she told Brian Walden that "I do not believe it possible to cut public expenditure below the plans we indicated" the previous year. A welcome realism, perhaps, after the failed ambitions of past public spending reviews – but also an unwelcome note of defeatism.

For this year's public spending plans bear all the signs of decisions postponed. The rise in public spending has not been halted because the Government has got a grip on social security; even over a period when it is assumed that unemployment will flatten out, spending on

benefits goes up by nearly 18 per cent in three years, about 5 per cent faster than inflation. The money to pay for this, and for a hefty rise in defence spending, has been found in a series of thoroughly dubious ways.

It comes first out of the sale of public sector assets, a once-formal financial boon of about £2,000 million a year between now and 1986-87. This should not be treated in public accounts in the same way as a cut in spending. As a source of funds, it is likely to dry up at just the moment when the Government's other great financial bonus, from North Sea oil, also begins to dwindle, leaving a yawning hole on the other side of the balance sheet for the late 1980s. Even the cuts outlined for specific programmes are the result of a badly-planned squeeze, not of deliberate decisions to alter the role of the state. It has been possible, for example, to trim education because the school population was falling; in the late 1980s that helpful trend will come to an end, before the Government has begun to focus on fundamental choices.

For five years the Government has fought an unrewarding battle to contain spending, with fading enthusiasm and sense of innovation and increasing recourse to the mindless trimming of budgets across the board. Exhaustion with this performance is not an excuse for inaction. Now is the time to plan priorities for the end of the 1980s, with full attention to their economic effect. If the Government tries to rest on its laurels, it will discover how quickly they wither and die.

BLACK AND WHITE IN LUSAKA

The agreement reached at Lusaka to set up a joint Angolan-South African commission to monitor the ceasefire along the Namibian border is undoubtedly "an important and constructive step" towards the eventual independence of Namibia, as the communiqué claims. There have been many previous false dawns and delicate negotiations still have to take place on such questions as: Will the South Africans really allow the South West African People's Organization (communist creatures of Moscow in their book) to take power in Windhoek? And will the Angolans in the end send the Cuban troops home?

Perhaps the cheering should thus be somewhat muted. But that things have progressed this far is a diplomatic triumph for the Americans. Dr Chester Crocker, the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, has worked long and hard to bring this about, travelling repeatedly up and down the African continent. The Americans are optimistic (though they admit that things remain "fragile") that this is the beginning of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435, which calls for a ceasefire followed by elections and eventual independence. The five-nation Western "contact group" (Britain, Canada, France and

West Germany joining the Americans) were entrusted with finding ways to bring this about, but it has been Dr Crocker and his colleagues who have taken charge. They have been responsible for bringing into play the issue of the Cubans in Angola (not "linked" but "parallel"). If negotiations fail, the United States will be blamed by the whole of Africa. But persuading South Africa to announce three weeks ago a disengagement of its forces and a planned withdrawal from Angola was promising. The Lusaka agreement (the first such pact between South Africa and its black neighbours) looks like setting up a momentum.

Spokesmen for the Angolans and Swapo (which is notably absent from Lusaka) remain deeply mistrustful of South African motives. And neutral observers even now find it difficult to visualize the Pretoria Government sitting idly by while elections bring Swapo to power in Windhoek. The reforming Prime Minister, Mr Piet Botha, has enlarged his political base, but he is still sensitive to the heavy breathing on his right from Dr Andries Treurnicht and his splinter group, the Conservative Party. To be seen to sell South West Africa down the river would have serious political consequences.

THE OMAN CONTRACT

Although some of his insinuations are unpleasant and his latest line of questioning is irrelevant, incompetent and the rest of whatever it is lawyers say about each other, Mr Peter Shore is justified in having pressed the Prime Minister for a fuller statement about her part in the Oman university deal in 1981. Our political culture – and this is one of its better features – is strict about the separation of public duty and private financial interest. It demands that men and women in public life, especially ministers of the Crown and above all prime ministers, do not put themselves in a position in which there is, or appears to be, a conflict between public duty and private interest. Sir Winston Churchill when prime minister expressed the matter in the form of a rule almost exactly in those terms. It is Parliament's business to be alert to possible infractions.

The appearance of there being here the sort of conflict between duty and family interest that ministers are supposed to be careful to avoid arises from the fact that while she was in Oman the Prime Minister was, as she is, happy to relate, strenuously promoting the claims of Britain to be the recipient of orders the Omani government was then placing for the construction of

the Sultan Qaboos university and teaching hospital. Simultaneously her son, Mr Mark Thatcher, was in the country in the capacity of businessman fishing in the same water for a contract on behalf of Cementation International with which he was remuneratively associated. Mother and son met twice, once in Abu Dhabi just before they went independently of each other into Oman, and again in the environs of the Sultan of Oman's summer palace two days later. Cementation was, as it happened, the only British firm after that contract at the time.

When almost three years later news of Mr Mark Thatcher's part in the affair reached the newspapers and the Prime Minister began to be asked questions in Parliament, it was not easy for her to know how best to respond. What she did was to say briefly and several times that she was out there bating for Britain by doing what she could to steer the Omani orders in Britain's direction; that she does not and did not on that occasion discriminate between British companies; and that she answers in the House of Commons for her actions as Prime Minister not for the actions of members of her family going about their own affairs.

The framework of that re-

sponse was appropriate. She gave at least some account of her official activity in the matter of the Oman contract, and she is most certainly not answerable for her son's business activities. But its brevity and intended finality did not fully take account of the unwelcome fact that there was in the situation described an appearance of conflict between public duty and private interest and that there were legitimate questions to be asked. She should have been more forthcoming.

As for Mr Mark Thatcher, the criticism would be that he was trading on his mother's name in a business matter in which she too was active in line with her public duties, and that this was going on in an environment which would be likely to exaggerate the influence he would derive from his relationship.

The Prime Minister is quite right not to be drawn into assuming responsibility for her son's business dealings. All the more reason why she should be as open and informative as possible about the official steps that were taken with a view to securing the Omani orders. Had she done so the affair would probably have died away as quickly as it arose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freedom at GCHQ

From Mr Greville Janner, QC, MP for Leicester West (Labour)

Sir, Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, repeated in article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, says this:

Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

It is apparent that the remarkable statement of Mr Dennis Chiles (February 14), "The right to form and join trade unions is surely not a basic human right," expresses a somewhat eccentric view and certainly not one which accords with international law and understanding.

The Government's real problem with GCHQ and international law arises not out of the agreed, clear and fundamental right of any citizen to protect his interests through belonging to a trade union, but rather to the extent of the exception.

In the unhappy event of the Government carrying out its intentions, contrary to the recommendations of the Select Committee on Employment, upon which I am privileged to serve, I would be surprised if it does not face legal action – and equally surprised if it is not in breach of its obligations in international law.

As always, though, the law should only be the outward garb of morality. That the Government's action is ill-advised, ill-considered and wrong-headed is a view common to most MPs of all parties – as the select committee's report clearly indicates.

Above all, would the court enforce a right to work? The right that is top of most trade unionists' agenda is the right to a job. Would trade union rights include preference for members in engagement?

Sir John seems to be rather more specific about the price to be paid. Industrial "warfare" outside the courtroom is to end. The right to "self-help" (usually known as the right to withdraw labour) is to be discouraged and eventually forbidden.

Yours sincerely,

GREVILLE JANNER,
House of Commons.
February 15.

Judges' powers and union rights

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, FBA

Sir, The Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson (report, February 15) calls for more "trade union rights" in order that judges should have expanded powers to settle industrial disputes. Rights cannot be discussed in the abstract: we need concrete examples.

Would they include a union right in law to bargain (repealed 1980), or effective rights to consultation and information (now proposed by the EEC, opposed by the Government), or restored and expanded rights to fair wages for the low paid (progressively repealed from 1980 to 1983)? In all, what measure of fairness will be used?

Would a judge have power to restore to employment workers improperly dismissed (a sanction which existing laws cannot enforce)? Would courts enforce employment in the case of workers arbitrarily refused work not only in sex or racial discrimination cases but also after blacklist embargo or refusal of engagement by reason of political or other prejudice?

Above all, would the court enforce a right to work? The right that is top of most trade unionists' agenda is the right to a job. Would trade union rights include preference for members in engagement?

Sir John seems to be rather more specific about the price to be paid. Industrial "warfare" outside the courtroom is to end. The right to "self-help" (usually known as the right to withdraw labour) is to be discouraged and eventually forbidden.

This is in line with his comments to Government in 1983. He adds

Female circumcision

From Lord Kenney and others

Sir, Your leading article today (February 15) criticises those African governments which, to please their urban populations, have kept food prices so low that there is insufficient incentive for their farmers to produce.

As a result no stocks have been built up and there is famine in years of poor harvest.

On the opposite page David Hart fulminates against British farmers who, helped by the policies of the EEC (not to mention their own hard work) are able to produce some surplus of food in years of normal harvest.

Sir, which policy would most consumers prefer – one which produces food or famine?

I am, Sir, your obedient agricultural servant,

RALPH ROGERS,

Court Lodge,

Horton Kirby,

Nr Dartford,

Kent.

February 15.

A breath of India

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir,

Your wrong Ferdinand Mount

Feature, February 13) is about *The Jewel in the Crown*!

I write as a member of the Raj. I spent my early childhood in India and I returned, at about the same time as Paul Scott, to join the Indian Army. My father spent forty years in India. Numerous relatives spent their lifetime there. I breathed the Raj.

I read Paul Scott's work with a mounting conviction that this was the India I knew. And to commemorate the anniversary of his death I spent out my wonder at his achievement in a talk on the radio.

The words I used then I stuck to absolutely: "Those of us who were a part of the Raj are grateful to him for the trouble he took over us. Now, if we're asked what it was really like, we can say with confidence, 'Read Paul Scott'".

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD RHODES JAMES,

15 Almoners Avenue,

Cambridge.

February 13.

Medical arithmetic

From Professor I. M. Richardson

Sir, Mr Richard Wakeford's letter (February 11) contains the misleading statement that this university is soon to be without five major clinical professors. Despite a much above average cut in recurrent grant since 1981 this medical school has never been without five clinical professors and is indeed about to advertise the regius chairs of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics/gynaecology; moreover this university has recently endowed from private funds a new clinical department of ophthalmology and appointed its first professor and head of department from the spring of this year.

May I assure your readers that Aberdeen is, and will continue to be, known nationally and internationally as much for the quality of its medical graduates as for its central role in the production of oil.

We see no case for any significant reduction in the output and export of either commodity.

I. M. RICHARDSON, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen.

February 14.

Severn crossing

From Mr A. T. MacMillan

Sir, Would it not be possible to combine a new crossing of the river Severn with the much thought about Severn Barrage, thereby killing two birds with one stone?

Yours faithfully,

A. T. MACMILLAN, 91 Cadogan Gardens, SW3.

February 8.

Countryside heritage

From Mrs D. Henrion

Sir, Correspondents attempting to rebut Lord Melchett's letter (February 6) all have one thing in common, that they are so busy trying to score minor points that they completely fail to address the substance of his case. If, according to Mr George Curtis, Peter Melchett is "bleating", his opponents are braying.

It may well be that in the particular case under discussion the hedgerows were cut down for their own good; even so, where the land is already largely denuded, even the temporary destruction of cover is a setback for the wildlife of the area.

But the important point is that whatever the truth about the contribution of past farming methods, modern farming methods are still steadily depleting wild life habitats. The actual figures for this destruction can be found in the Nature Conservancy Council's Habitat Report, but the basic facts have been known and repeated ad nauseam for at least the past decade, yet still the powers-that-be turn a deaf ear and a blind eye. One wonders whether they don't believe the facts or just don't care.

Yours faithfully,

D. HENRION, 13 Owlstone Road,

Cambridge.

February 13.

Fate of Temple Bar

From the Chairman of the Temple Bar Trust and others

Sir, The inspector who presided over the recent public enquiry into the differing views about Temple Bar has not yet published his report, and in these circumstances we think it would be inappropriate to rehearse once again the arguments which were submitted to the inspector over a period of four days; but, in view of the letter you publish today (February 8) from the Duke of Grafton and others, all of whom were witnesses or were represented at the enquiry, we must at least, with your permission, make certain facts clear.

1. Temple Bar, the only surviving gateway to the City of London, is private property; it stands on land privately owned; there is no public access to it, though our endeavours to protect it from vandalism have unfortunately only had a limited effect.

2. It is not either the wish of the owner, or of ourselves, that this important piece of architecture, of such historical interest, should be left in a country wood.

3. We do not consider it sensible partly to repair it where it is and then leave it once uncarved and unprotected and unseen.

4. In the district where it is now located the local authority, the Borough of Broxbourne, is support-

ing our proposal to take Temple Bar back to the City.

5. There is no record known to us of any practical steps having been taken at any time by any of the distinguished bodies whose representatives have written to you to protect, repair, safeguard or otherwise look after Temple Bar where it is.

6. It was only after the City Corporation had granted us planning permission to re-erect Temple Bar in the City that this opposition began.

7. They overlook



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Queen, Patron, this morning attended a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the Diamond-Jubilee of the British Leprosy Relief Association (President: Mr Chris Bonington; Chairman, Sir George Bell) at All Hallows-by-the-Tower, Bow Street, London, EC3.

Her Majesty was received on arrival by the Right Hon the Lord Mayor (Dame Mary Donaldson) and the Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower (the Reverend Peter Delaney).

The Address was given by the Bishop of Canterbury and the Blessing by the Bishop of London.

Lady Sue Hussey, Mr Robert Fellowes and Major Hugh Lindsey were in attendance.

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe visited The Queen at Buckingham Palace today.

CLARENCE HOUSE

February 16: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Hepburn Starey Blind Aid Society at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Ron Street.

Lady Elizabeth Basset and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

February 16: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, today attended the launch of the Farming and Wildlife Trust at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, WC2.

Mr John Higgs was in attendance.

February 16: The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Reception given by the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers of His Royal Highness and the Hon

Alfred Grant (Master of the Wax Chandlers' Hall), this evening at Wax Chandlers' Hall, London, this evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

February 16: The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, today visited Helen House Hospice at Oxford.

Mr David Napier was in attendance.

THATCHETT HOUSE LODGE

February 16: Princess Alexandra, President of World Wildlife Fund - United Kingdom, this afternoon relinquished her appointment as Chairman and Mr T. A. P. Walker upon relinquishing his appointment.

Her Royal Highness and the Hon Alan Ogilvy were present this evening at the Mountbatten Festival of Music by the Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines at the Royal Albert Hall.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Mr C. W. Goldsmith and Miss E. J. Rodgers

The engagement is announced between Cosmo, son of Mr and Mrs William Goldsmith, of Hambleton, Hampshire, and Emma, daughter of Dr and Mrs Brian Rodgers, of Hurstspurton, Sussex.

Dr A. B. Haworth and Miss K. Ebrahim

The engagement is announced between Barnabas, son of Professor and Mrs J. N. Haworth, of Nottingham, and Kamila, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Z. Ebrahim, of Dulwich, London.

Mr I. Hemsley-Hetherington and Miss E. J. Hodgson

The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. H. M. Robinson, of Penshurst, Kent, and Rosemary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Mayor, of St David's College, Llandudno.

Mr P. Rooney and Miss S. Braxton

The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs R. E. Griffiths, of Sydney, Australia, and Sarah, daughter of Mr J. E. Griffiths of Mallorca, Spain, and Mrs S. Griffiths, of Easington, Surrey.

Mr C. W. H. Carter and Miss J. D. Nolan

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Jack Carter, of Bedale, North Yorkshire, and Jenny, daughter of Mr Leonard Nolan, and the late Mrs Mrs Nolan, of Highgate, Merseyside.

Mr H. W. P. Clarke and Miss P. A. Bell

The engagement is announced between Hugh, elder son of Dr T. Clarke, of Upton Pyne, and Mrs J. Clarke, of Lympstone, and Phillipa Ann, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Bull, of Virginia Water.

Mr J. M. Freemans and Miss D. H. Tomkinson

The engagement is announced between John, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Freemans, of 65 Hillgrove Crescent, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, and Heather, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Tomkinson, of Elford, Hertingdon, Worcester-

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Mr P. L. Catchpole and Miss S. A. Griffiths

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cash alternative as M1 fails to measure up

Short of one of those extraordinary last-minute turnarounds, the Government's £10 billion target for public borrowing in 1983-84 looks well within its grasp. The latest official figures show that the public sector repaid debt of £2.6 billion last month to bring total borrowing for the first 10 months of the financial year to £7.5 billion.

The monetary background to the Budget also looks encouraging following a slowdown in monetary growth last month. Bank of England figures show the main measure of the money supply, sterling M3, rose by 0.6 per cent to remain within the Government's 7 to 11 per cent target range. Bank lending to the private sector totalled £1.28 billion, rather higher than the average for last year but well down on the £1.71 billion recorded in December.

The Government's finances are commonly in surplus in the early part of the year as the main tax gathering season gets under way. Treasury calculations were upset last year by the eleventh-hour spending spree by government departments, which added more than £3 billion to borrowing in February and March. This year officials appear confident that a similar spree can be avoided. They expect cash limits, which were reduced by the Chancellor in his emergency measures last July, to begin to bite shortly.

Nevertheless, the latest figures show that departmental spending is still running well ahead of plans. Spending so far this financial year is 9.4 per cent up on the same period last year, 4 per cent higher than budgeted, though after adjustment the Treasury estimates the underlying rise at something less than 8 per cent. If continued this would imply an overspend this year of £2 billion, compared with an estimate of only £500m in the public spending White Paper published yesterday.

The prospects for public borrowing are improved by higher-than-expected tax revenues which are 7.4 per cent up from a year earlier in the first 10 months of 1982-83.

The public sector surplus and heavy sales of gilts and national savings largely offset the impact on the January money supply of buoyant bank lending and a steep increase in lending overseas. The narrow money measure, M1, fell by 0.2 per cent and the broad measure of private sector liquidity, PSL2, rose by 1.1 per cent in the month. Since last February when the target period began M1 has grown by 11.4 per cent at an annual rate and PSL2 at 12.3 per cent, compared with 10.7 per cent for sterling M3.

Come the Budget, M1 is booked to slip gracefully from the headlines as a narrow money measure, because it has become far too sensitive to interest rates. The proportion of interest-bearing deposits in M1 has grown from 10 per cent to more than a quarter since 1975. The point of a narrow money measure is as a guide to the level of spending – transactions in the jargon – rather than credit. In his Mansion House speech, the Chancellor paved the way for a switch to M1, the wider monetary base.

For the cognoscenti, one of the minor points of interest in Mr Lawson's Budget speech will be whether he opts for M0 or the even narrower measure notes and coins and whether he lays down a specific target for this.

James Capel, the stockbrokers, suggest he should opt for notes and coins while the statisticians wait to see if M2, the

latest specially designed measure, comes up to scratch. They also suggest that a target for 3 to 7 per cent for notes and coins would fit with 6 to 10 per cent targets for the wider measures.

A new Treasury working paper also points more cautiously to notes and coins in circulation. It concludes that even these narrow measures have become more interest-sensitive in the past few years, but not unduly so. It is also possible to adjust the figures to take away distortions caused by the trend to the cashless society, principally by allowing for the growth of bank and building society accounts.

Given these adjustments, both M0 contains two irrelevant elements. Cash in bank tills fluctuates widely short-term and bankers' working deposits at the bank of England are more a function of the regime of monetary control than short-term trends in the economy.

The Chancellor should plump for measuring and targeting the amount of notes and coins in circulation. Then, for the first time, the authorities will actually be talking about what the vast majority of the public thinks of as money and all those homely metaphors about printing the stuff will at last take on some substance.

A Morgan at the helm

A descendant of one of the founding fathers of Morgan Grenfell, one of the City's leading merchant banks, now sits at the head of its American operation, Morgan Grenfell Inc. Mr John A Morgan, aged 33, has hitherto resisted the temptation to join one of the Morgan family firms.

For the past two years he has been the Morgan of Morgan Lewis Giffen & Ahn, a New York investment banking firm. Before that he was vice-chairman of Smith Barney, Harris Upham and given credit for much of that firm's expansion. He will continue as a partner of his own firm in addition to being the non-executive chairman of Morgan Grenfell Inc.

Following Mr Morgan's appointment as chairman, Mr Christopher Whittington, who is based in London, will become executive vice-chairman. Mr John Franklin remains deputy chairman and Mr John Fraser continues as president.

Mr Morgan's appointment signals an acceleration of Morgan Grenfell's development in New York. Its New York broker-dealer business is 40-strong. The great-grandson of Junius Spencer Morgan and great-grandson of the legendary J. Pierpont Morgan is expected to bring considerable experience in the securities industry and mergers and acquisitions, and "tremendous contracts" in New York and elsewhere.

Morgan Grenfell's New York operation specializes in mergers, acquisitions, leasing and project finance. It is examining the possibility of becoming a US money manager and a trader in US Government securities. In London, Morgan Grenfell and Wedd Durlacher Mordaunt, the largest UK jobbing firm, have been in talks which may lead to a trading link, although both companies say they are talking with other possible partners. In Tokyo the bank has a representative office but is now contemplating ways of strengthening its Japanese profile, including an application to join the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kennedy Brookes deal near

Young's brewery, Seagrams, the Canadian drinks group, and James Burrow, makers of Beefeater gin, are about to emerge as big shareholders in Lennuscourt, the company formed by Kennedy Brookes to develop and manage three theme eating and drinking areas in the £45m Trocadero development off London's Piccadilly Circus. The company is expected to be floated on the Stock Exchange at some stage.

Kennedy Brookes, the Mario and Franco restaurant group, retains a 31 per cent interest in the company which will have spent about £3.8m on the project by the time the Trocadero opens in May.

Sales of unit trusts continued to boom in January as investors piled in on the back of rising markets and a flood of promotional advertising. Sales for the month reached a record high of £3.77m, 25.5 per cent up on the previous record of £2.60m achieved in November 1983.

Marler Estates said yesterday that its controversial £1m all-share bid for SB Property, the company which owns Chelsea Football Club's ground, had gone unconditional. Marler said it had received acceptances for 69.58 per cent of the "A" shares and that the offer was being extended until March 2.

Receivers have been called in at Highgate Optical and Industrial after several years of mounting losses. Highgate, which distributes optical and photographic equipment, said yesterday that it had "no alternative but to ask National Westminster Bank to appoint a receiver."

Reed buys US magazines

By Philip Robinson

Reed International, the publishing company which owns Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday announced it has spent \$41m (£28.4m) on buying American magazines. The latest two – *Interior Design* and *Corporate Design* – from Whitney Communications Corporation have a \$12m turnover.

Reed says it recently bought three others: *Chemical Purchasing*, *Energy Design Update* and

Strategy Review which Reed is carrying out.

Takeover by GKN 'would hurt UK trade'

Carmakers oppose AE merger

By Andrew Cornelius

Evidence from the leading motor manufacturers in Europe, including Ford, General Motors, Volkswagen and Renault, could lead to a decision by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to block any renewed takeover attempt by AE (formerly Associated Engineering) of its Midlands rival, Guest Keen & Nettlefolds.

The motor manufacturers say that if the merger goes ahead there would be a net loss of trade for Britain in vital engine components like pistons and bearings where AE and GKN are currently used as alternative suppliers.

Mr John Collyear, chairman of AE, said yesterday his original estimates that Britain's share of engine bearing business in continental Europe would fall from 90 per cent to 75 per cent if the merger went through had been revised downwards. "After taking stock of our customers' reaction to a merger we estimate that a more realistic figure is 60 per cent," he said.

Mr Collyear indicated that this pattern would be repeated in other areas including the supply of engine cylinder liners

where both AE and GKN supply European manufacturers.

Before the Monopolies Commission began into GKN's proposed £67m takeover of AE last year GKN had argued that a merger would strengthen the British motor component industry and help it to win orders in an increasingly international marketplace.

However, AE has used the six-month breathing space al-

Halifax barred from opening offshoot in Isle of Man

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Plans by the Halifax Building Society to set up an offshoot in the Isle of Man to take deposits and gain interest to investors without deducing tax have been unexpectedly blocked by the UK authorities.

The Halifax had been hoping to open for business in the Isle of Man in the spring. Another leading society, the Leicester Building Society, was working on similar plans. However, Mr Richard Hornby, chairman of the Halifax, revealed yesterday that at a very late stage the UK authorities expressed doubts whether building societies could operate in this way within the present legal framework and the Halifax had been forced to postpone its plans.

Building societies are regulated by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and Mr Michael Bridgeman, Chief Registrar, said yesterday that he could not comment on the matter at this stage.

However, the chief objection of the authorities appears to

have been that if the scheme went ahead, the Halifax would not have been able to stand behind the fail of Manx offshoot in the event of its collapse. Under present legislation building societies are not allowed to set up or make payment to subsidiaries.

Official sources also indicated that the scheme could have led to tax problems. It was suggested in other quarters that the possibility of investors using the Manx offshoot for tax evasion had prompted considerable concern.

At the Leicester Building Society, Mr Scott Durward, chief general manager, declined to make any comment. "There is absolutely nothing I want to say about the Isle of Man at the moment. I would prefer to remain totally silent on the subject," he said.

Halifax was planning to use a Manx offshoot to gather deposits from expatriates and use the proceeds both for mortgage finance in the Isle of Man and for longer.

They would risk a big outflow of funds and, because of this, rates were likely to stay higher for longer.

Britain's biggest society, said yesterday, however, he emphasised that move would depend on next month's Budget and the likely response from other societies.

It would have to be a judgement of demand and supply on one hand and our expectations of what other societies will do. The fewer who follow suit, the greater the risk.

Although mortgage demand is even stronger than predicted only a month ago, Mr Hornby suggested that building societies might soon be in a position to lower their rates but still satisfy borrowers' needs. But he concluded that in the aftermath of the break-up of the interest rate cartel and in the present competitive climate, it was very difficult for one or two societies, however big, to cut their rates in isolation.

The Halifax might step out of line with a cut in its mortgage rates in April, if it judged conditions were right. Mr Richard Hornby, chairman of

Halifax, said yesterday that there had been clear informal indications that it would be allowed to proceed but there had been a change of heart at a very late stage.

Mr Hornby said more realistic legislation was urgently needed to "to avoid wasteful exercise of the right."

Earlier he announced record results for the Halifax in the year and plans to push up lending by further 20 per cent to £3,400m this year.

Society may cut rate in April

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Managers buy out Hover speed

By Jonathan Davis

Financial Correspondent

The management of Hover speed, the cross-Channel hovercraft operator, yesterday paid a "nominal" sum to buy it from its two unhappy former owners, British Rail and Broadspeed.

The management made its move after British Rail declined to continue its guarantee of a £4m overdraft which has been keeping the financially troubled company afloat since it was formed in 1981, through a merger of Hovertravel and Hoverfly.

Although British Rail would not comment on the reasons behind its change of heart, it appears to have been prompted by the Government's determination to make British Rail privatize its cross-Channel operations.

The buyers include five senior members of the company's management, headed by Mr Michael Keeling, the chairman, and Mr Gerry Draper, its deputy chairman. Mr Draper is a former marketing director of British Airways.

Hover speed operates six hovercraft and employs 600 staff. Although it is still losing money after depreciation charges, Mr Keeling said that he expected the company to generate a positive cash flow this year. National Westminster Bank has agreed to continue the overdraft facilities in return for guarantees from the new owners.

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BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

Laker loss hampers Saga's profit take-off

Saga Holidays, which specializes in vacations for retired people, now almost makes a virtue of the speed with which it disposed of the disastrous Laker acquisition. Nevertheless, the consequences rumble on. Profits for the 16 months to the end of October were £2.43m against £13.600m for the previous 12 months, but they would have been £1m higher were it not for the Laker losses.

This does seem the end of the story, however, and Saga is adamant that it will concentrate henceforth on its traditional business. The enormous increase in turnover from £4.2m in 1982-83 to £90.4m for the 16 months - of which £7m came from Laker - points to the underlying strength of sales.

But the structure of the market is changing. For competitive reasons Saga is coy about revealing the contribution from its comparatively recent American operations. It is clear, however, that a significant proportion of the

extra turnover came from that source.

The same cannot be said of all the British business.

Saga has tried to stem the tide a little by upgrading its own six British hotels, for example, but the booking indications so far this year are that demand for holidays in Britain is expanding only slowly.

This decline, which is structural and owes much to the growing preference of pensioners for more expensive and exotic holidays, was more than offset, however, by better results from the European land holidays and from cruises.

Hopes for longer term development are therefore mainly pinned on the United States and on selling more European holidays. The American operations, on which £800,000 was spent when they started in 1982, now have 70 employees and have only begun to exploit a market of 35 million retired people. The US business is now self-financing.

A small company has been launched in Holland to test the market on the Continent. Still, Saga must find another way into the peak season market.

The transitional 16 month year inevitably makes comparison confusing, and while the next year from November 1 to October 31 will overall include a better balance of revenue and expenditure, it will also mean that the first half will be worse than the second.

This time, however, the net dividends of 5p are covered by earnings of 7.97p and net assets of 23m cushion expansion. The shares were unchanged at 114p where a 6.3 per cent yield indicates reasonable confidence in the market.

Datastream

Since it came to the market a year ago with an offer for sale that was nine times oversubscribed, Datastream has been curbed by the theory that its business will eventually be killed off by bigger competitors

in computerized financial information.

But yesterday its share price seemed finally to break free of the 225p level at which it was originally floated, surging 27p to 260p in response to news that interim pretax profits for the second half of calendar 1983 rose 63 per cent to £11.73m.

A satisfactory outcome for the year as a whole is expected which would indicate profits of at least £3m against £2.34m last year.

A first interim dividend of 1.45p is to be paid and assuming the final is also lifted, the shares will be left yielding something over 2 per cent - not unreasonable for a high techology stock.

Datastream has installed about 30 new terminals over the last six months, raising the total to 430. More significantly, however, there has been a rise in demand from existing clients for the unit trusts service and a substantial increase in investment accounting business. The effect was to increase sales

during the half year by 24 per cent to £6.01m.

A new commodity service is to be launched later this year bringing the company an expected 50 new clients. Datastream is also planning to go into direct competition with the Wood Mackenzie viewdata system by offering a performance measurement service to fund managers by the end of the year.

The shares will remain vulnerable to regular bouts of speculation that Reuters or Iteletel is to enter its particular area of the financial database market.

But the company will continue to make progress so long as there is development in financial services. There is also the scope for overseas expansion, which is only just beginning to be tapped, though the nervous stock market debut the company made appeared overdone.

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BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL'S

1983/84	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Vid	Gross
	Low	Stock		Chg	pence	%	P/E	Div
BRITISH FUNDS								
SHORTS								
1982/83	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1983/84	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1984/85	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1985/86	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1986/87	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1987/88	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1988/89	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1989/90	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1990/91	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1991/92	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1992/93	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1993/94	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1994/95	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1995/96	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1996/97	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1997/98	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1998/99	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1999/2000	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1990/91	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1991/92	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1992/93	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1993/94	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1994/95	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1995/96	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1996/97	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1997/98	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1998/99	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1999/2000	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1990/91	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1991/92	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1992/93	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1993/94	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1994/95	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1995/96	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1996/97	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1997/98	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1998/99	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1999/2000	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1990/91	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1991/92	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1992/93	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1993/94	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1994/95	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1995/96	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1996/97	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1997/98	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1998/99	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1999/2000	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1990/91	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1991/92	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1992/93	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1993/94	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1994/95	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1995/96	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1996/97	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1997/98	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00	1.00	£1.00
1998/99	£1.00	£0.98	£0.98	£0.98	-0.02	1.00		

Petrano to search for oil in Texas

By Michael Clark

Dog Bend Lime, Ellenberger and Pal Pinto Lime are all familiar terms to the oil rich operators of Texas, they could also become part of the vocabulary of British institutions before long. This is because a British company intends to take on the Americans at their own game and search for oil in the plains of Texas.

Petrano, an oil exploration company formed in 1981, is applying under Chapter 7 of the Stock Exchange's Yellow Book for full listing. Under the guidance of Brown Shipley and broker L. Meissel, 2.8 million shares (about 26 per cent of the issued share capital) at 125p a share are being offered to raise £3.05m to finance further exploration and pay off existing borrowings.

Petrano was the brain child of Mr Clive Smith who is well known in the Poitiers and has in the past built an impressive private business empire, including Britain's largest private mine.

Mr Smith intends to get the oil out of the ground as cheaply and quickly as possible. This makes the oilfields of Texas the best choice. Texas supplies about 30 per cent of America's energy needs and has to date produced 46 billion barrels.

Petrano already has sizable stakes in three fields, Hearn, Windham and Sweetwater totalling 3,290 acres, ranging from 50 per cent of the lease to 100 per cent. Part of the proceeds will go towards financing the Sweetwater leases.

For the year to September 30, 1983, pretax profits stood at £151,000 and for the remaining three months of the year were £101,000 with a projected cash flow of £2.56m.

Debt fears ease but banks remain wary

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

The sovereign debt exposure of the big international banks has been a considerable source of worry for banking supervisors around the world since the debt problems of the developing countries emerged. However, success of bankers, the International Monetary Fund and central banks in tackling the problems of the big debtors has helped to greatly reduce concern in banking circles over the past year.

In the past six months, for instance, increased quotes were finally agreed for the International Monetary Fund, allowing it to continue playing a crucial role alongside the banks. An \$11 billion rescue package was finally put in place for Brazil after months of tortuous negotiations and Mexico has shown encouraging signs of a return to financial health.

Problems remain, however, with Argentina a particular worry for bankers because of its serious economic problems and officials in both Britain and the United States are conscious that difficult times could lie ahead.

The nine largest US banks have about 300 per cent of their capital exposed in loans to developing countries and Eastern Europe, according to a study by Mr William R. Cline of the Institute for International Economics in Washington.

Even more worrying for United States officials is the fact that one of the two largest American banks has 74 per cent of its equity exposed in Brazil and nearly 55 per cent in Mexico.

Because of its geographical closeness, Latin America is the area where United States banks have found themselves with the biggest problems. British banks have also lent heavily in this area. Midland Bank has a significant exposure to Latin America through its Californian

Foreign exposure of US banks at June 1983

	All banks (\$ millions)
Eastern Europe	8,111
Opec members	24,921
Latin America and Caribbean	70,214
Asia	28,808
Africa	4,880
Other	221,211
Total	355,945

Exposures to Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela

	\$ millions	% of total assets
Bank America	7,200	5.8
Chase Manhattan	6,223	7.9
Citibank	10,223	8.3
Manufacturers Hanover	6,074	9.4
Barclays	2,100	3.5
Lloyds	3,200	9.3
Midland	2,800	5.8
National West	1,600	2.9

Source: Wood Mackenzie estimates, US statistics, Salomon Bros.

Foreign exposure of UK registered banks and overseas operations at June 1983

	(\$ millions)
Eastern Europe	7,157
Opec members	11,432
Latin American and Caribbean	24,804
Asia	9,245
Africa	4,808
Other	110,111
Total	167,557

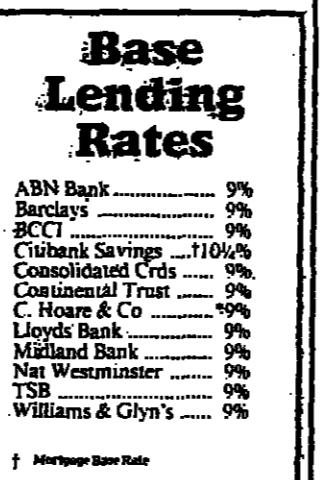
Source: Bank of England.

subsidiary, Crocker National Corporation while Lloyds Bank has longstanding links with the continent.

British banks compared with their American counterparts also have sizable exposures to Eastern Europe. However, worries about Comecon borrowers have been greatly allayed by the stringent adjustment measures many of them have taken and the big improvements in their current account positions.

British banks are also among the strongest capitalized in the world and are considered to be less prone to the dangers which could afflict leading banks if a big borrower declared a default, on its loans.

Despite this, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, stressed recently the importance of international banks ensuring they were well capitalized. International banks need to sustain and emphasized the need for adequate bad debt provisions against doubtful loans.



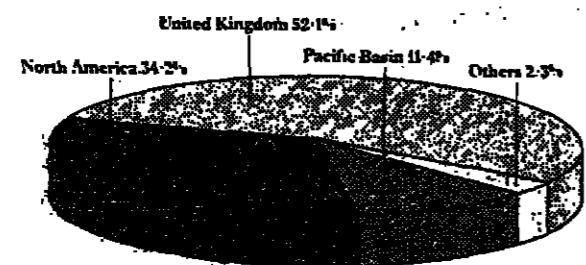
Mortgage base rate

1 Mortgages on residential property £10,000, 9%, £100,000 to £200,000, 9%, £200,000 and over, 10%.

The Charter Trust & Agency PLC

Highlights of the year (ended 30th November 1983)

Gross revenue £3,280,436 + 14.4%
Dividend per share 1.975p + 6.8%
Net asset value per share 81.5p + 29.4%
Total assets £67,376,943



MANAGERS

KLEINWORT BENSON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts are available from the Secretary, 20 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3DB.

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies

The Trans-Oceanic Trust PLC

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Wednesday, 15th March, 1984.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31st October, 1983.	
1983	1982
Total Revenue	£2,734,011
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£1,083,080
Earnings per Ordinary Share	2.95p
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	2.84p
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	170.5p
	127.8p

In his Statement in the Annual Report the Chairman, Sir Ashley Ponsonby, commented:

In the autumn of 1982 the Directors considered the relative attractions of the US stockmarket and currency to be compelling and arranged a \$7.5 million loan in order to increase American exposure. The equity portion of this loan was liquidated in January 1983 resulting in a profit of £3.4 million. The dollar loan bond portfolio, however, was increased during the year in order to take advantage of the very high real interest rates. Towards the end of 1983 it was felt that the relative strength of the dollar might be coming to an end. \$12 million of existing US equity core investments were switched into a dollar loan account so that they might be protected from any possible weakness in the currency. Including both dollar loans, some 57% of the Trust's investments were in North America at the year end. The proportion invested in US equities was reduced in the summer when some £2 million of small, high technology stocks were sold. We felt that the valuations put on such stocks by the market were high and discounted rates of growth which might not be attainable. Some 31% of the Trust was invested in the UK where the emphasis continued to be on high yielding recovery stocks which appeared relatively attractive within the market. Such stocks proved good investments in terms of both capital and income. Japanese investments in the Trust were increased slightly to 7.1% during the year. The Board has limited the percentage of unquoted investments in the Trust to 10% and these venture capital holdings have been taken in companies which the Directors believe have sound long-term prospects.

Some two-thirds of the Trust's gross assets are now invested overseas where the after-tax income returns are low. Moreover, about one-fifth of the Fund is invested in ill-yielding American junior growth stocks and venture capital situations. Nevertheless, the Trust's earnings rose by 16% over the previous year. Though this was aided in part by the large US bond portfolio the Directors hope that income will continue to grow in 1984 though probably at a lower rate.

The overall objective of the Trust is the achievement of capital growth coupled to further increases in income. To this end the Directors will maintain a flexible approach.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wag & Co. Limited, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

New orders exceed expectations

Growth of German domestic sales – Capital expenditure up 20%

New orders

During the first quarter of the current financial year, or from 1 October to 31 December 1983, new order receipts of £3,198m remained 7% below those of the comparable period in 1982. At that time, however, orders for the Emsland nuclear power plant, together with the impending expiration of a government capital investment grant, caused an order surge that catapulted growth 25% above the previous year's level. When allowance is made for these special influences affecting last year's first-quarter figure, new orders for the first three months of the current financial year were better than expected.

Excluding power plant business, Siemens recorded a 3% increase of new orders from the German domestic market, while new

orders received from abroad matched last year's volume.

Order results were strongly supported by increased worldwide demand for electronic components and, in particular, for integrated circuits. The Components Group chalked up some 40% more orders than a year ago. The medical engineering and data systems sectors, which last year reported especially high growth rates, achieved a slight rise of orders again this year due to intensified international business.

in £m	1/10/82 to 31/12/82	1/10/83 to 31/12/83	Change
New orders	3,426	3,198	- 7%
Domestic business	1,853	1,700	- 8%
International business	1,573	1,498	- 5%

growth rates were again recorded in data systems, medical engineering, and components.

in £m	1/10/82 to 31/12/82	1/10/83 to 31/12/83	Change
Sales	2,269	2,462	+ 8%
Domestic business	1,041	1,218	+ 17%
International business	1,228	1,244	+ 1%

Orders in hand

During the first quarter, orders in hand rose 5% to £15,348m. Inventory stood at £4,949m, 8% above the volume at the start of the financial year. The increase is very largely associated with ongoing power plant projects.

in £m	30/9/83	31/12/83	Change
Orders in hand	14,566	15,348	+ 5%
Inventory	4,584	4,949	+ 8%

Employees

The decline in the number of Siemens employees has slowed appreciably. In the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West), the Siemens work force decreased 1% to 210,000 people. This was primarily because of the contractually scheduled departure of temporarily employed students. Outside Germany, the total number of employees remained unchanged at 101,000. An average of 312,000 people were employed by Siemens worldwide during the period under review, or 2% fewer than a year ago. In contrast, employment cost went up 3% to £1,076m.

COMPANY NEWS
IN BRIEF

Lincroft Kilgour: Mr Tony Holland, chairman of the cloth merchanting and menswear manufacturing group, says in the annual report: "Last year's results will be difficult to follow, particularly in view of the loss of the transport authority uniform contract, contributed £186,000 to profits in 1982-83 and seems likely to contribute a further £70,000 this year for the period to completion."

"Much depends on a pick-up in volume in the cloth merchanting division, which our trading policy dictates must be achieved without a corresponding increase in stock levels. Certainly, there are indications that the long decline in volume may be ending and, in certain markets, there are even signs of a slow recovery in confidence." Dobson Park Industries: The chairman, Mr J. J. Francis, told the annual meeting that the recently publicized economic recovery is not, as yet, resulting in any significant improvements in demand from the group's principal markets. "The expected reduced level of British mining machinery sales will materialize in the first half-year, but will be cushioned by an appreciable increase in overseas business," he said.

River Plate & General Investment Trust: Gross revenue for 1983 (figures in £000) 1,733 (1,597). Total net dividend on deferred shares up from 6.2p to 6.2p net.

Alexanders Holdings: Year to Sept. 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 52,884 (43,846). Pre-tax loss 214 (profit 154). No dividend issued, but one-for-ten scrip issue proposed.

Elbief: Half-year to Oct. 31, 1983. Figures in £000. 1,150 (1,239). Pre-tax profits 207 (137). Interim payment, net a share, up from 0.385p to 0.44p.

MARKET REPORT • by Michael Clark

Norfolk Capital rises on bid talk

Norfolk Capital, the hotels group run by Lady Josephine, widow of Sir Maxwell Joseph, the man who founded the Grand Metropolitan leisure combine, looks certain to receive a takeover bid soon.

Its shares leapt by 12p to 69p yesterday, spurred by the news that Kennedy Brookes, the Mario and Franco restaurants group, had recently listed its stake to 7.38 per cent. But more likely to bid for Norfolk first is Stakis, the Glasgow-based hotels, clubs and casinos group, which recently emerged as a big shareholder.

It was believed to be buying Norfolk shares in the market yesterday and its chairman, Mr Leo Stakis, was said to be "down in London on business" when an attempt was made to contact him in Glasgow.

Mr Michael Golder, chairman of Kennedy Brookes, said: "It is well known that my company wants to get into character hotels, but my board has not yet considered bidding for Norfolk. It certainly looks as though someone will though, doesn't it?"

Norfolk, which owns 10 hotels, including the Ecclestone in London, is valued at just over £13m in the stock market. Three directors of Kennedy Brookes have also bought 150,000 shares in Norfolk. These were bought on the day their company acquired its original stake in Norfolk, on February 3.

The rest of the equity market kept its head above water with the FT Index closing 1.3 up at 817.9, helped by renewed bid speculation and selective buying. Last night, the annual

dinner of the Society of Investment Analysts was held at the Grosvenor House Hotel and this is usually an occasion for brokers to let their hair down. It also effectively ensures that turnover is reduced to a trickle.

Leading shares managed modest improvements, with Allied-Lloyds, up 1p to 152p, BT, 3p to 417p, BOC Group, 1p to 277p, Boots, 1p to 172p, Courtaulds, 1p to 140p, Hawker Siddeley, 4p to 402p, P. & O. Deferred, 1p to 270p, Plessey, 3p to 217p, Thorn EMI, 2p to 619p and Trusthouse Forte, 1p to 205p. But there were falls in Glaxo, 8p to 735p, Beecham, 3p to 298p and Distillers, 1p to 257p.

Hanson Trust took a step nearer victory over London Brick yesterday when Hoare Govett, its broker succeeded in picking up a further 1.6 million shares at around 165p. So far this week Hoare has bought about 7 per cent of the equity taking the total to 16.5 per cent. This, combined with acceptances already received takes Hanson's stake to 18.5 per cent. London Brick rose 1p to 164p yesterday.

Gilts sported gains of up to 25p as the pound continued to benefit from a weaker dollar on foreign exchanges. The money supply figures, showing sterling M3 up by 0.6 per cent, were well on target and the public sector borrowing requirements showing a surplus of £2.62bn, was also well received by the market.

On the bid front, shares of Gestetner, the beleaguered off-

fice equipment group, bounced 8p to a new high of 101p as several leading brokers continued to pick up more shares on behalf of their European clients.

This has led to the growing belief among many marketmen that a bid may be just around the corner. It is probably also responsible for the strength of the shares over the past six months which have risen from a low of 29p. However, the Gestetner family continues to hold a controlling interest in the shares and any approach would have to be agreed.

Allianz, the German insurance group which failed in its attempt to gain a toehold in the British insurance market with the abortive acquisition of Eagle Star, has denied its interest in making a bid for Phoenix Assurance. This clipped 11p from the price of Phoenix at 460p, which has been a strong market of late on market whispers that the US-based Continental Corporation was about to sell its 24 per cent stake for 600p a share.

Herb Wolfgang Schieren, chairman of the German group, said: "Allianz remains interested in obtaining a foothold in the British market after withdrawing from the takeover battle for Eagle Star in December, but we are not discussing a takeover with Phoenix".

The rest of the insurance composites remained a dull market ahead of the reporting season, which starts on February 29, with figures from Commercial Union, down 1p at 173p, after 171p. Guardian Royal Exchange lost 1p to 644p.

Slip, Minster Assets 3p to 51p, Midland 5p to 399p and National Westminster 1/2p to 722p and Barclays on 527p, both closed unchanged.

Along the market's newcomers, LPA Industries made a smooth transfer from Rule 183 to the unlisted securities Market. The shares opened at 105p, compared with their last quoted price of 95p under Rule 163, but ended the day only 1p higher at 96p.

LPA makes electrical accessories for industrial use and was introduced to the USM by Greene & Co., a broker.

This week's other newcomer, Nylyx rallied after Tuesday's disappointing debut, closing 3p up at 39p, but still 1p short of the placing price. Nylyx distributes coin-operated information systems.

Mr Ian Wasserman of GM Firth and the board of Porter Chadburn have reached agreement on terms for an acquisition of Porter.

Firth and one of its directors, Mr Andrew McClue, will subscribe for a total of 1.5 million new shares between them at 75p a share. Meanwhile, Firth intends to make a bid of 88p a share for the remaining 7.47 per cent it does not already own. Associates of Firth already speak for 125,000 shares on 3.9 per cent.

This combined with the 1.5 million new shares being subscribed for by the board of Firth and Mr McClue, will give Firth 51.6 per cent of the enlarged capital. Shares of porter Chadburn rose 3p to 115p on the news but closed 2p down at 112p.

IBS dealings halted as board seeks aid

By Jonathan Clark

Share dealings in immediate Business Systems, the troubled Unlisted Securities Market computer company, were suspended yesterday ahead of a refinancing package.

The shares were suspended at 58p: they were placed at 90p and at one stage traded at more than 300p.

The PBM is a £4,500 portable computer which allows meter readers to bill users of electricity or gas on the spot. But so far the company has received orders only for pilot schemes. One analyst said: "It has always been a jam tomorrow." But he added that IBS had a good product. The company was the result of a £2.9m management buy-out from Plessey two years ago.

The company had not been expected to make a profit until this year but losses were expected to be gradually trimmed rather than worsened.

WALL STREET

MONEY MARKETS

The recent heavy shortages abated yesterday giving the discount houses breathing space. The Bank of England opened with a forecast of a £50m shortage, but that had reduced to £100m by midday.

The authorities were able to take most of this out with bid purchase operations totalling £84m at the end of the morning, taking 10m of band two paper and a £78m of band four at established intervention rates.

The Bank did not buy any more bills in the afternoon, but it gave late additional assistance amounting to £35m to take its total help to £119m.

Houses were able to find money comparatively cheaply

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

over much of the session. Balances responded to bids of 9 per cent throughout the morning and into the afternoon. Then for a spell in mid-afternoon, money was answering to rates down to 8½ per cent. But things turned tighter for the close, when it became difficult to find money, even at 9½ per cent. At the outset, the Bank of England had identified the principal minus factors as £220m of maturing assistance and Treasury bill take-up, and a £15m rise in note circulation. Most dealers believe that sterling's loss against some continents has been overcome in the past few days, so a gain of 3½ centimes against French francs at 11.9050 and of 1½ pfennigs to DM3.87 did not surprise them.

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £s per tonne:

Coffee, cacao, sugar in pounds per

Gum-Oil in US per metric ton.

RUBBER

BRG 35

BRG 40

BRG 50

BRG 75

BRG 100

BRG 150

BRG 200

BRG 250

BRG 300

BRG 400

BRG 500

BRG 750

BRG 1,500

BRG 2,000

BRG 3,000

BRG 4,000

BRG 5,000

BRG 7,500

BRG 10,000

BRG 15,000

BRG 20,000

BRG 30,000

BRG 40,000

BRG 50,000

BRG 75,000

BRG 100,000

BRG 150,000

BRG 200,000

BRG 300,000

BRG 400,000

BRG 500,000

BRG 750,000

BRG 1,000,000

BRG 1,500,000

BRG 2,000,000

BRG 3,000,000

BRG 4,000,000

BRG 5,000,000

BRG 7,500,000

BRG 10,000,000

BRG 15,000,000

BRG 20,000,000

BRG 30,000,000

BRG 40,000,000

BRG 50,000,000

BRG 75,000,000

BRG 100,000,000

BRG 150,000,000

BRG 200,000,000

BRG 300,000,000

BRG 400,000,000

BRG 500,000,000

BRG 750,000,000

BRG 1,000,000,000

BRG 1,500,000,000

BRG 2,000,000,000

BRG 3,000,000,000

BRG 4,000,000,000

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BRG 7,500,000,000

BRG 10,000,000,000

BRG 15,000,000,000

BRG 20,000,000,000

BRG 30,000,000,000

BRG 40,000,000,000

BRG 50,000,000,000

BRG 750,000,000,000

BRG 1,000,000,000,000

BRG 1,500,000,000,000

BRG 2,000,000,000,000

BRG 3,000,000,000,000

BRG 4,000,000,000,000

BRG 5,000,000,000,000

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WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Johnson lifts gold medal to put the downhill experts in their place

From John Hennessy, Sarajevo

From forerunner to foremost downhill skier in the world is the metamorphosis experienced by Bill Johnson in a moment of sweet fulfillment.



Mount Bjelasnica yesterday. He had been one of the racers to open the Lake Placid downhill in 1980, snow fodder for the men who really mattered. Now he had made the downhill Mafia of Austria, Switzerland and Canada, as one American colourfully dubbed them, eat their contemptuous words after his victory at Wengen last month. It is three years since a skier from another country won a downhill. Peter Mueller, of Switzerland, took the silver medal and Anton Steiner, of Austria, the bronze.

This is only Johnson's third season in Europe, having missed the 1981-82 season for disciplinary reasons. He is something of a free spirit, "basically able to do anything I want", he modestly claims. The quarrel with authority has been patched up and yesterday he was the hero of the American hour.

Johnson's first World Cup victory, in Wengen, was greeted with derision because of the freak conditions, but a fourth place at Cortina a week or two ago "solidified that I'm one of the top racers in the world. They had to learn to respect me". He admits to being a daredevil, but "everyone is in

an intermediate time placed

Pirma Zurbirgen, but the

American showed greater drive

lower down. The first of the two

testing bumpy stretches, which

Mueller had the best intermediate time and a man of his vast experience might have been expected to hang on, but the lower part of the course caught him out. Steiner, similarly, could not match Johnson's drive in the lower reaches.

MEDALS TABLE

	USSR	East Germany	West Germany	Canada	United States	Yugoslavia	France	Austria	Total
Gold	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Silver	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bronze	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

The popular favourite, Franz Klammer, of Austria, looked rather like yesterday's man. He won the 1976 title in such spectacular style that he became a living legend. Even his exclusion from the Austrian team in 1980 could not destroy his reputation, but he never promised to achieve his ambition of a second title. He was desperately untidy through the passage of six giant slalom-type

Martin Bell, the principal British entry, did not disgrace himself for he finished eighth, with a number of distinguished skiers in his wake. It was not as statistically arresting as Konrad Bartelski's twelfth place in Lake Placid. But at 19 he has time on his side.

It is also the easiest race to lose, for one mistake can be crucial. You can spend all your time preparing for this one big shot", Johnson points out, "and blow it in the blink of an eye." There was no blinking on his part yesterday.

This was the easiest course the main exponents of downhill will meet all season: on the short, side and technically straightforward, as is common in the case in the Olympics to accommodate skiers from countries where snow is notable only for dislocation of traffic.

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Underwood and Barley, young men on the ball who hope to have a hand in an England victory (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Ward's thrusts can threaten England

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The embattled Irish, two defeats to the bad and in the process of changing an aging team, sustained another blow yesterday when Campbell, their stand-off half, withdrew from the side to play England at Twickenham tomorrow. His place goes to Ward, who will win his fifteenth cap and who replaced Campbell in the closing stages of last season's game with England.

Campbell missed the first half of this season after contracting a blood disease and still lacked his usual sparkle in the first two championship matches. He has been feeling unwell over the last fortnight and yesterday, after consultation with Michael Molloy, the Irish Rugby Union doctor, withdrew when the team assembled for training in Dublin. Ward's place as a replacement goes to Condon, the London Irish stand-off.

It is not uncommon for players to lose form the season after a Lions tour, but in Campbell's instance the malaise appears to go deeper than that.

His withdrawal follows that earlier in the week of Slattery, who is due to enter hospital for blood tests though there was some comfort for Ireland when Ringland, the right wing, passed a fitness test on a groin strain.

In 22 matches for his country Campbell has scored 217 points but he hands over the kicking duties to a player who is equally skilled, Ward, moreover, is a typically Celts runner who may ask more questions of England's defence, with the ball in hand, than Campbell.

Both were together in Ireland's back division in 1981 against England, when Cooke, the Harlequins flanker, played a full international season. Cooke has been prevented from adding to his four caps by the form of Winterbottom but he joined the England squad in training at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, yesterday as a full member of the side after three years away.

England's training was remarkable for the amount of free running in which the backs indulged and for the evident desire of the forwards for

scrummaging. At one stage they were opposed by an 11-man pack, including the three replacement forwards, Rendall, the Wasps prop who had agreed to make up a practice front row, the physiotherapist and chairman of selectors. If they can hold eight Irishmen tomorrow as well, they will be pleased.

There were few high kicks to be seen which suggests that given a firm ground, England will give their backs an airing. With the best will in the world conditions in the Calcutta Cup game a fortnight ago did not favour a running game and it seems to me that England's championship aspirations have been too readily discounted after one indifferent showing against Scotland.

The two newcomers from Yorkshire, Barley and Underwood, blended in well, Barley's passing of the ball drawing appreciative comments, and though Wheeler, England's captain, denied that fundamental changes in approach were planned, it will be surprising if some frustrated English sup-

porters do not see some worthwhile rugby. "England are better than they showed against Scotland two weeks ago," Wheeler said. "The championship is not yet a two-horse race. If we beat the Irish we could be on for six points and the title."

Wheeler appreciated the disappointment felt by the supporters who travelled to Murrayfield: "Both sides are going out with the same feelings. Both sides have their backs to the wall and have received a lot of criticism and we have got to put it right on Saturday."

England will have their final workout this morning and Ireland, who flew in from Dublin last night, their customary afternoon jog. The draw, too, sustained a late change before they left Paris for Cardiff, where they play Wales tomorrow. Rodriguez, who played flanker against Ireland last month, has a broken thumb and is replaced by Erbasi, who had already been asked to join the squad after doubts about the fitness of Joine. It will be Erbani's eleventh cap.

The debate raged - as indeed did the competition - as to who was the better hooker. If the difference had been a matter of degree, the one would, sooner or later, have been judged better than the other. But although the disparity of that evening may have tempered his performance, it has not dented his wits or resilience.

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England will seek to make amends in first of one-day internationals

From Derek Hodgeon, Christchurch

Permit me to quote regulations 11, 12, and 13 from the playing conditions of the Rothmans one-day international series between New Zealand and England that starts at Lancaster Park tomorrow. "Only one white ball will be used. The sight screens shall be black. In all matches the team will wear approved coloured clothing."

There may appear to be nothing new or sinister in such rules and, indeed, such deviations from the accepted traditions of the game are now the popular part of Australasian cricket. The danger lies in their acceptance.

The only reason advanced for these colour changes when World Series began was the necessity for sharp contrasts when playing cricket under floodlights. This next series starts at 11am each day and no New Zealand ground has floodlights.

Another example: the New Zealand board will appoint a referee for each match who will adjudicate on disputes over rules, "assist" the umpires in calculating revised numbers of overs to be bowled, be responsible for any suspensions of play caused by bad light and review any penalties imposed for not achieving over rates. "The referee's decision... shall be final and be accepted by both captains and umpires". The umpires are virtually reduced to counting the number of balls in an over and deciding whether, so play on Astroturf where the bounce will be gentle and uniform.

Artificial surfaces might also eliminate those dangerous subversives, the spinners. Fading light? Can't have that. Batsmen must be able to see properly, so

play all games under artificial lights.

Umpires are a little Victorian, too. If the referee is in charge, why not appoint umpires who could tell a quick joke to camera in that dreamy gap between overs? Either that or ensure that there is enough time between overs to give an advertiser a decent burst.

Scoreboards are a nuisance. Who can work out all those numbers? They have a great idea in boxing a pretty young thing in high heels and a bikini tarts round the ring between rounds and holding up a placard with the number of the round to come. That could apply to the next over, too.

Those commentators can be a bore. You can sell Benad and Laker to a Miss World audience. Something light and cheerful is needed; you know, the Breakfast TV approach. If people get depressed they start thinking. No, not Roland Rat. Perhaps a disc jockey, with the presenter from a quiz show.

That is the kind of packed cricket that no self-respecting commercial TV company could resist, and if they could devise some method of pushing it down-market they might even sell it to the Americans.

All this may read like a fantasy, a passage from George Orwell, in Bath or Bradford, in Australia and New Zealand it could be happening next year because cricket is no longer controlled by people who love it as a game.

England train at Lancaster Park this morning and will be keen to see what has happened to the square since the notorious pitch prepared for the second Test match. The other two matches follow in Wellington next Wednesday and Auckland the following Saturday.

Grist to the mill

Yorkshire turned a loss of £11,000 in 1983 into a profit of £48,000 last season, when they won the John Player League.

It would have been much greater but for the cost of the special general meeting last month which passed votes of no confidence in the cricket and general committees and called for the reinstatement of Geoffrey Boycott. This is estimated in the annual report released yesterday to have cost £72,925.

Yorkshire's income was £531,777, a rise of nearly £100,000 on the previous year with subscriptions up 18.92%, Test and County Cricket Board cuts amounting to £195,983 and gate money rising by £17,000 to £59,718.

The bulk of the gate receipts came from the eight home Sunday League matches which brought in £33,152, compared with £19,032 in 1982. Championship attendances were also up by £5,000 to £25,474 and sponsorship reached a record figure of £47,330.

BOXING

Bruno faces Argentine champion

Terry Lawless, the manager of Bruno, has appealed to Britain's boxing public to give the Australian middleweight champion Jan Antonio Figueras a warm welcome when he meets the unbeaten Londoner at Wembley Arena on March 13.

Lawless, speaking from Tampa, Florida, said: "I hope we can be big enough to forget the trouble between the two countries. I suppose it is inevitable that there will be some boozing but I'd like to ask the fans to give him a great reception. We're all sportsmen after all."

Conrad Lawless, 21, wants to see any repetition of the disgraceful Wembley scenes of September 1980, when Marvin Hagler took the world middleweight title from Allan Minter and was bombarded with beer cans.

Bruno, chasing his twentieth straight win, takes on a man who stands two inches taller at 6ft 6in but weighs half a stone less at 152½ stones. Figueras has won 26 of 26 bouts in the UK and the first Argentine to beat a British since Santos Laciar met Charlie Magri in December 1980.

"I've been having a bit of a fight with Frank about his weight," Lawless said. "He keeps telling me how big his neck and shoulders are getting but he doesn't seem to realise his weight increases at the same rate as his neck. There's a problem, but there isn't."

Bruno, aged 22, has been working hard in the Florida sunshine. "He's had 70 rounds of sparring already, 50 of them with the Commonwealth champion, Trevor Berwick, and it's been invaluable experience," Lawless enthused. "Frank's become very rounded and very worldy with all the trips abroad. He is also suffering from impatience but although he is not ranked in the top 15 by either the WBC or WBA, The Ring Magazine rates him tenth and they are tougher in their judgment."

"I don't even want him in the top 10 right now. It would make my job almost impossible, what with all the fuss, and it's coming along perfectly at the moment. Figueras is just the right sort of opponent for us."

Lawless plans perhaps another 20 rounds to complete a month's working holiday - "if we can get the right sort of sparring". Berwick will be on the scene Wembley, talking on March 10.

Also in the party is Britain's other great boxer, George Franks, who has with him Corinna Boaz-Edwards, John Mugabi, who boxes on Sunday, and British's Nick Whishire, who next Wednesday tackles Orpington's Jimmy Cable for the British light-middleweight title at the Albert Hall.

Decider coin is tossed out

The toss of a coin will no longer settle the fate of a county in the knock-out stages of the Benson and Hedges cup competition. The Test and County Cricket Board have decided that if teams are tied after three days, the winner will be determined by the wicket-taking rate in the previous zonal matches.

Last summer, in the quarter-final at Bristol, Gloucestershire lost a vital toss and Middlesex went through, going on to win the final against Essex at Lord's.

Prize money for this summer's competition has again been increased, to £30,000 on last year's figure, to £35,000. The winners will get £1,000 at £14,000 and the losers £1,000, losing semi-finalists £2,750 each, losing quarter-finalists £2,000 each; winners of zonal matches £550 each.

Mendis to lead

Colombo, (Reuter) - Duleep Mendis, aged 31, has been appointed Sri Lanka's captain for three Test matches and three one-day internationals against New Zealand next month. He will also lead Sri Lanka in the first Asia Cup cricket tournament at Sharjah on April 1.

GOLF

Graham's lead slips as he suffers rough luck

Melbourne (Reuter) - David Graham, of Australia, forfeited the outright lead in the first round of the £97,000 Australian Masters tournament at Huntingdale yesterday when he had a six at the par-four 18th hole.

Graham was in trouble in the rough with one of his approach shots and the lapse left him sharing first place on 69, four under the card, with fellow-countrymen Mike Ferguson and Terry Gale.

Ferguson, who played early in the day, was in the clubhouse for three hours before Graham and Gale joined him.

It was an unhappy day for the overseas players. Nick Faldo, in trouble at the 18th, had a level-par 73 to finish one ahead of the American, Calvin Peete, and Bernhard Langer of West Germany.

Langer was upset by the slow play. "I've been out there too long," said tournament director David Ingles.

Faldo was playing in the same group as Graham, Marsh, the Australian who led in last year's world match-play event at Wentworth after a controversial incident when a spectator returned a wayward approach to the green.

But there was no such help for Faldo yesterday. His approach to the 18th green went wide to the right, passed through the branches of a tree and rolled into a bunker supporting the main scoreboard.

Faldo crawled in and retrieved it, then took a drop from a designated spot nearby, completing the hole in a bogey five.

First round: Peete, Australia, unless stated; G. Hargrove, D. Graham, T. Gale, 70; M. Ferguson, 71; D. Gale, 71; L. Langer, 72; N. Faldo, 74; C. Peete (USA), 75; G. Marsh, 75; B. Langer (W.G.), 76; D. Ingles, 76; T. Gale, 77; B. Charles (NZL), 78; Anderson-Chapman (Can), P. Fowler, 79.

MAHILAL: Philippine Open: Second round leaders (Philippines unless stated): 1. R. Lavan, 70, 68, 140; P. Braza, 65, 72, 143; M. Rates, 73, 72, 147; E. Bagas, 73, 73, 148; U.S. Jones, 77, 70, 148; T. Abordacion, 73, 72, 148; T. Steckford, 73, 72, 148; J. Lewis (USA), 75, 72, 148.

HOCKEY

North could win again

By Joyce Whitehead

The national junior territorial tournament starts today at Queen Mary's School, Lytham St Annes, and the programme will continue until 11.30 on Sunday morning. The presentation of the trophy will be delayed until the announcement of the results for the England junior team trials.

The tournament will be a seven test of endurance. Each side will have played four matches in three days (only the North did not play on Sunday morning) and then selected for the final trial will play again at noon on Sunday - a far cry from the earlier limit of one match a day.

For the last three years the North have held pride of place, with three successive wins, though last year they took precedence over the South on goal difference. They appear again to have a strong side with the captain, Holly Rose, Andrea Fleming and Julie Pearson playing on home ground.

The West, with Heather Tilley (Cornwall) as captain, learn much from an early match on February 4 with British Colleges, to whom they lost 0-2. Tracey White, daughter of

A. Whitehead, and Julie Pearson

of Wigan, will be the West's British mid-weight champion.

Mark Kavoor, 16, is the

youngest player in the team.

Lawless, 21, is the British contingent in Florida with West Ham's British mid-weight champion, Mark Kavoor.

Also in the party is Britain's other great free-style fencer, George Franks, who has with him Corinna Boaz-

Edwards, John Mugabi, who boxes on Sunday, and British's Nick Whishire, who next Wednesday

teases Orpington's Jimmy Cable for the British light-middleweight title at the Albert Hall.

Tooby girls identical in every way but current fitness



Susan Tooby (left) and Angela neck and neck (Photograph: Tony Marshall)

Dead heat for twins who came in from the cold

Angela Tooby has not quite made up her mind how good she is. The English cross-country champion at Kuebworth Park, Hertfordshire, tomorrow should go a long way towards convincing her, for she is a likely winner. And if her twin, Susan, had not been injured earlier this season, the organizers might have needed a photo-finish to separate them. Few people would be any the wiser.

They prefer to spare us the problem by not running the same race when they can avoid it, since it is a problem for them, too. "It's difficult mentally having her there," Angela says. "It's like your inner self running by your side. You're not only thinking of yourself, you're thinking of that other part of you. It's an added pressure. If that other runner is best, it's an added pressure. If she is best, it's an added pressure. I would just be thinking of Susan."

Angela claims that she does not believe in notions of telepathy between identical twins, putting it down to "the same genes and conditioning". But when their new coach Ann Hill put her on a crash diet last year, and she lost a stone in two weeks, her sister also lost weight, without the diet. Susan admits that if Angela gave up running, she would too. Angela puts it another way: "As long as one of us is running, the other will have to continue."

There has never been more than a few seconds separating them since they were children, and their father sent them running around the family orchard at Woolhope, Herefordshire, when they complained of the cold. Only a week separated their respective breakthroughs into the rank of women's distance running last autumn. When Angela won the English 10 miles road race, on October 2, the question uppermost in our minds was "Why?" For she had never won any road race, let alone a national title.

The surprise was compounded when Susan won the Welsh 10 miles title in 55 mins 56 seconds, only 25 seconds slower than Angela's time. "She had to do it, because I'd done it," Angela says, "rivalry, but not jealousy," she emphasized. Their interdependence is awesome, but rewarding, like the six-day cycle racers who alternate the lead by catching each other's arm, to catapult their partner forward. From school in Aberystwyth, they did the same university course in Aberystwyth, played the same basketball and country hockey teams, and of course, ran together.

After three years in Aberystwyth, they have run for Wales, which is their intention. But they have been separated for the last couple of years.

Angela stayed on Wales to do her teacher-training, but Susan went to Loughborough, "and started training seriously", Angela says with the glint of rivalry back in her eye. That pushed Angela into finding a proper coach for her first time in her career, a move that Susan later followed. Angela now teaches geography and PE in Cambridge, while Susan teaches the same subjects in Bristol.

It is hard to draw Angela out of the same modest ambition.

She still clings to the relative obscurity of Woolhope, Aberystwyth and Cambridge. Susan, who got to know the personalities in her sport during her year in Loughborough, cannot believe how her sister does not know her principal opponents, but says she can understand Angela's trepidation about being one of tomorrow's favourites, after finishing thirty-third in last year's race in which Susan was thirty-first.

But Angela prefers to think "my advantage is not knowing the people I'm running against, to go into a race oblivious of who such-and-such is."

Somebody offered to take her to see tomorrow's course, since it is barely 30 minutes drive from Cambridge. But she refused. "I just want to turn up and run." Asked if she wanted to modify her own top ten projection, she conceded "top five" then in the same sentence admitted to "first three". Angela Tooby had better enjoy today. It will probably be her last without pressure.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davolie

BBC 1

6.00 *Ceefax AM*. A selection of news and information items, available on every TV set.

6.30 *Broadcast Time*, with Sir Roy Scott and Mike Smith. Today's Friday "specials" include Alan Titchmarsh's gardening hints (between 7.30 and 7.45), pop news (7.45 and 8.00) and food and cookery (between 8.30 and 9.00). Regular items include *TV News* (7.30, then hourly until 8.30), *Sport* (7.40), *TV Choices* (6.40, 10.55), *Morning papers* (7.18 and 8.15) and *Your Stars* (8.35).

9.00 *Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle*: cartoon series. 9.20 *My Music*: Steve Race puts the questions to Frank Mylrea and John Arnis, and Denis Norden and Ian Wallace (r); 9.45 *Ceefax pages*; 10.00 *Play School*; 10.55 *Play Ideas*; 11.05 *Ceefax pages*; 12.15 *Beepers*; 12.30 *News After Noon*; 12.57 *Financial Report* and *sub-titled news*.

1.00 *Olympic Grandstand*: live coverage of the first two runs of the Four-Man Bobsleigh event. Also *Skiing*: the Ladies Slalom (see also 6.40 entry, and 10.50).

3.15 *The Fenlands*: How the rich farmlands of south Lincolnshire have kept their head above water. With Catherine Wilson. Keeper of Lincolnshire History.

3.50 *Magic Roundabout*: 3.55 *Play School* It's Friday; 4.20 *The Adventures of Tin Tin*: cartoon adventure; 4.25 *Jackancy*: Bernard Holley with more pages from Joan Eadlingham's Jonny Briggs and the Jubilee Concert; 4.45 *Whitjack Cub reporter* Matthew Woods on the trail of the rare double-damselfly. In human times, apparently but not any more) 5.05 *Grange Hill*: Episode 14 (of 18). More about Diane Cooney and her make-believe boyfriend. With Julie-Anne Steel as Diane; 5.35 *The Wombles*.

5.40 *Sixty Minutes*. The line-up is: news (5.40), weather (5.45), regional magazines (5.55) and closing headlines (5.58).

6.40 *Olympic Grandstand*: *Ski-ing*: the Ladies Slalom, And *Ice Hockey*, in which the winners of Group B plays the runners-up in Group A.

7.05 *Match of the Day - Live*: Blackburn Rovers v Southampton. Jimmy Hill introduces the programme and the match commentator is John Motson.

9.00 *News*: the reader is Sue Lawley. And weather prospects for the weekend.

9.25 *Remington Steele*: After reading the manuscript of his wife's book, a husband fears for his life. Then, he mysteriously disappears from a party.

10.15 *The Further Adventures of Lucky Jim*: Enn Reitel plays Kingsley Amis's hero, re-created by Dick Clement and Ian Frenell (r).

10.45 *News*: and weather for the weekend.

10.50 *Olympic Grandstand*: *Ice Hockey* - Group A winners against the Group B runners-up. The commentator is Alan Weeks.

11.20 *Film*: *Bed Man's River* (1971). Filmed-in-Spain western about a tussle over a million-dollar cheque. Lee Van Cleef plays the leader of a gang of bank robbers in Texas. Gina Lollobrigida plays the "widow" who intends to take the outlaw for everything he has. Also starring James Mason, as a Mexican revolutionary. Directed by Gene Martin. Ends at 12.05am.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 683kHz/433m; 909kHz/320m; Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; VHF - 90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/1500m; VHF - 92-95; BBC 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 1548kHz/194m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/453m.

TV-am

6.25 *Good Morning Britain* with Nick Owen and Anna Diamant. Today's Friday "specials" include Alan Titchmarsh's gardening hints (between 7.30 and 7.45), pop news (7.45 and 8.00) and food and cookery (between 8.30 and 9.00). Regular items include *TV News* (7.30, then hourly until 8.30), *Sport* (7.40), *TV Choices* (6.40, 10.55), *Morning papers* (7.18 and 8.15) and *Your Stars* (8.35).

1.00 *ITV/LONDON*

9.25 *Thames News* headlines; 9.30 *For Schools*. The line-up is: 9.30 *Your Living Body*; 9.47 *Puff Steam Ahead*; 10.09 *Children's secret places*; 10.25 *Understanding the Economy*; 11.05 *Midlife English*; 11.22 *Animal Movie*: cartoon; 11.39 *Brother, Can you Spare a Dime?*

12.00 *James and the Magic Torch* for the toddlers; 12.10 *Rainbow*; repeated at 12.10; 12.30 *Survivor: Down in the Forest*: A film about the national parks of Sri Lanka (r).

1.00 *Newspaper*; 1.20 *Thames areas*; 1.30 *About Britain*: The War; The farming threat to our national sanctuaries for birds and seals.

2.00 *Just Our Luck*: comedy series about a weather man and a pen; 2.30 *Falcon Crest*: It is Nick's and Sheila's wedding - but nobody can guess what lies ahead; 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*: Fiona's connections with Wayne affect her relationship with Scott.

4.00 *Children's ITV*: *Rainbow*; 4.20 *Battlin' cartoon*; 4.45 *Spooty*; 4.50 *Freetime*: with Mick Robertson and Trudi Dance; 5.15 *The Young Doctors*: Australian medical world drama series.

5.45 *News*; 5.00 the 5 o'clock Show: Michael Aspel in a live news programme with studio guests.

7.00 *The Zodiac Game*: with the astrologer Bernard Fitzwater, and studio guests Stu Francis, Peter Gilmore, Maureen Lipman and Madeline Smith. The MC: Tom O'Connor.

7.30 *The A-Team*: Another story involving these present-day soldiers of fortune. Starring George Peppard.

8.30 *A Fine Romance*: Final instalment of this romantic comedy series which have been several cuts above the average thanks to fine performances from Judi Dench and Michael Williams and truthful dialogue from Bob Larby. Tonight: Laura's parents arrive for the wedding.

9.00 *Killer Waiting*: Thriller, by Eric Wendell, co-starring John Thaw and Diana Keen. With Stamford Gordon. An army officer, living in an isolated farmhouse, is warned that he is about to be murdered.

10.00 *News* at Ten. Followed by: London news headlines.

10.30 *The London Programme*: The capital is about to see an eruption of superstores (much bigger than supermarkets). The programme shows that the companies planning to establish them (Sainsbury's, Tesco etc) are not planning permission only by appealing to the government after local council's objections.

11.00 *Bosom Buddies*: American comedy series with Tom Hanks and Peter Scolari.

11.30 *South of Watford*: London's hinterland club. *The Dixie Box*, for example, is *The Circus*. The presenter: Ben Elton.

12.00 *Bizarre*: Comedy series, with John Byner.

12.30 *Dragnet*: Joe Friday (Jack Webb) helps a woman torn by conflicting loyalties. Followed by Dr Una Knill's *Night Thoughts*.



Blaze victim: Day of the Fireball (BBC2, 7.45pm)

● **THE DAY OF THE FIREBALL** (BBC2, 7.45pm) reminds us yet again that when it comes to disaster, there is nothing on fact. It will be a very foolish person indeed who, in the future, will attempt to go one better than the *World About Us* film and deck out the story with all the sensational trappings of commercial cinema. A year ago this week, tales of flames and smoke were a threat to the Australian bush, leaving death and destruction in their wake. Tonight's film is both a record of that ferocious catastrophe (were there, one wonders, bravary awards for the camera crews and reporters - and if not, why not?), and a sombre consideration of the long-term, including new communities to replace those wiped out in the holocaust.

CHOICE

● **HANNOCK OF THE NORTH** (Channel 4, 3.45pm) is the daily round of the Eskimo, that was transmuted into an epic of survival thanks to Fisher's humanism and narrative skill. The building of an igloo; a walrus hunt; the catching of a seal; baldy Idiots, the elements in *Never Cry Wolf*. Impressive. And hindsight - Fisher's cheerful and resilient Eskimo hero died of starvation two years after the film was made, in 1922 - we can now appreciate the full enormity of this special drama.

● **WAR AND PEACE IN OUR TIME** (Radio 4, 4.10pm), Geoffrey Stern's

seven-part series about the ultimate madness, gets off to a promising start today by setting out the wide range of alternatives to human nature and divine punishment that could up for inspection when the apparent inevitability of war. As the weeks progress, Mr Stern will doubtless present testimony from living authorities. Today, it is mainly the dead who speak, from the depths of the BBC archive. But don't let that put you off. *Never Cry Wolf* is a must.

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BBC 2

6.05 *Open University* (until 8.10).

9.06 *Daytime on Two* (until 2.40).

The line-up is: 9.06 *Food and Population*: 9.25 *Maths-in-a-Box* (*Weight Watchers*); 9.32 *The Boy from Spain* (5); 10.15 *Mathematica*; Two; 10.30 *Evening Extra* (2); 10.45 *Evening Extra* (3); 11.00 *Crime* (2); 11.22 *Animal Movie*: cartoon; 11.39 *Brother, Can you Spare a Dime?*

12.00 *James and the Magic Torch* for the toddlers; 12.10 *Rainbow*; repeated at 12.10; 12.30 *Survivor: Down in the Forest*: A film about the national parks of Sri Lanka (r).

1.00 *Newspaper*; 1.20 *Thames areas*; 1.30 *About Britain*: The War; The farming threat to our national sanctuaries for birds and seals.

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1.00 *Evening Extra* (2); 1.30 *Evening Extra* (3); 2.00 *Evening Extra* (4); 2.30 *Evening Extra* (5); 3.00 *Evening Extra* (6); 3.30 *Evening Extra* (7); 3.45 *Evening Extra* (8); 4.00 *Evening Extra* (9); 4.15 *Evening Extra* (10); 4.30 *Evening Extra* (11); 4.45 *Evening Extra* (12); 5.00 *Evening Extra* (13); 5.15 *Evening Extra* (14); 5.30 *Evening Extra* (15); 5.45 *Evening Extra* (16); 5.55 *Evening Extra* (17); 6.00 *Evening Extra* (18); 6.15 *Evening Extra* (19); 6.30 *Evening Extra* (20); 6.45 *Evening Extra* (21); 6.55 *Evening Extra* (22); 7.00 *Evening Extra* (23); 7.15 *Evening Extra* (24); 7.30 *Evening Extra* (25); 7.45 *Evening Extra* (26); 7.55 *Evening Extra* (27); 8.00 *Evening Extra* (28); 8.15 *Evening Extra* (29); 8.30 *Evening Extra* (30); 8.45 *Evening Extra* (31); 8.55 *Evening Extra* (32); 9.00 *Evening Extra* (33); 9.15 *Evening Extra* (34); 9.30 *Evening Extra* (35); 9.45 *Evening Extra* (36); 9.55 *Evening Extra* (37); 10.00 *Evening Extra* (38); 10.15 *Evening Extra* (39); 10.30 *Evening Extra* (40); 10.45 *Evening Extra* (41); 10.55 *Evening Extra* (42); 11.00 *Evening Extra* (43); 11.15 *Evening Extra* (44); 11.30 *Evening Extra* (45); 11.45 *Evening Extra* (46); 11.55 *Evening Extra* (47); 12.00 *Evening Extra* (48); 12.15 *Evening Extra* (49); 12.30 *Evening Extra* (50); 12.45 *Evening Extra* (51); 12.55 *Evening Extra* (52); 1.00 *Evening Extra* (53); 1.15 *Evening Extra* (54); 1.30 *Evening Extra* (55); 1.45 *Evening Extra* (56); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (57); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (58); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (59); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (60); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (61); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (62); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (63); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (64); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (65); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (66); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (67); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (68); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (69); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (70); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (71); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (72); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (73); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (74); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (75); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (76); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (77); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (78); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (79); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (80); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (81); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (82); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (83); 1.55 *Evening Extra* (84); 1.55 <i

Homes monopoly by solicitors to be ended

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government will today indicate steps which will eventually break up the solicitors' monopoly on house conveyancing.

It has decided to establish an independent committee to consider the qualifications and standards which conveyancers who are not solicitors will be required to achieve to provide adequate protection for the consumer.

It will be accepting the principle that non-solicitors can do conveyancing work, a concession which has led Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, to decide to withdraw his House Buyers Bill, which surprisingly won a second reading in the Commons last December.

These moves failed to satisfy Mr Mitchell or the many Conservative MPs who backed his Bill. The monopoly was being loosened but not broken, they argued.

Since then Mr Mitchell and his backers have been in intensive negotiations with the Government. Their efforts have been resisted by statements by the Prime Minister, who has at least twice since the talks began, spoken of her desire to break professional monopolies with the support of key ministers.

The independent committee will report by September, and the Government is likely to propose legislation in the next session of Parliament.

He is also expected to announce an inter-departmental inquiry to conduct a wide-ranging inquiry into the house transfer system with the aim of making purchase simpler and cheaper.

Mr Mitchell: Withdrawal from House Buyers Bill.

Thatcher firm on GCHQ

Continued from page 1
established such a "conflict of loyalties" was the main reason for faltering progress towards a compromise.

But Mr Peter Jones, Secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said last night: "I do not believe that the public is prepared to believe what the Prime Minister is saying and at an increasing volume, inside and outside Parliament, it is being said that there must be an agreement with the unions".

The unions have put forward proposals in the four areas which the Government said needed to be resolved when the ban was first announced at the beginning of the month.

Last night, it was being said that removal of trade unionists' ability to appeal against unfair dismissals to industrial tribunals was a minor problem.

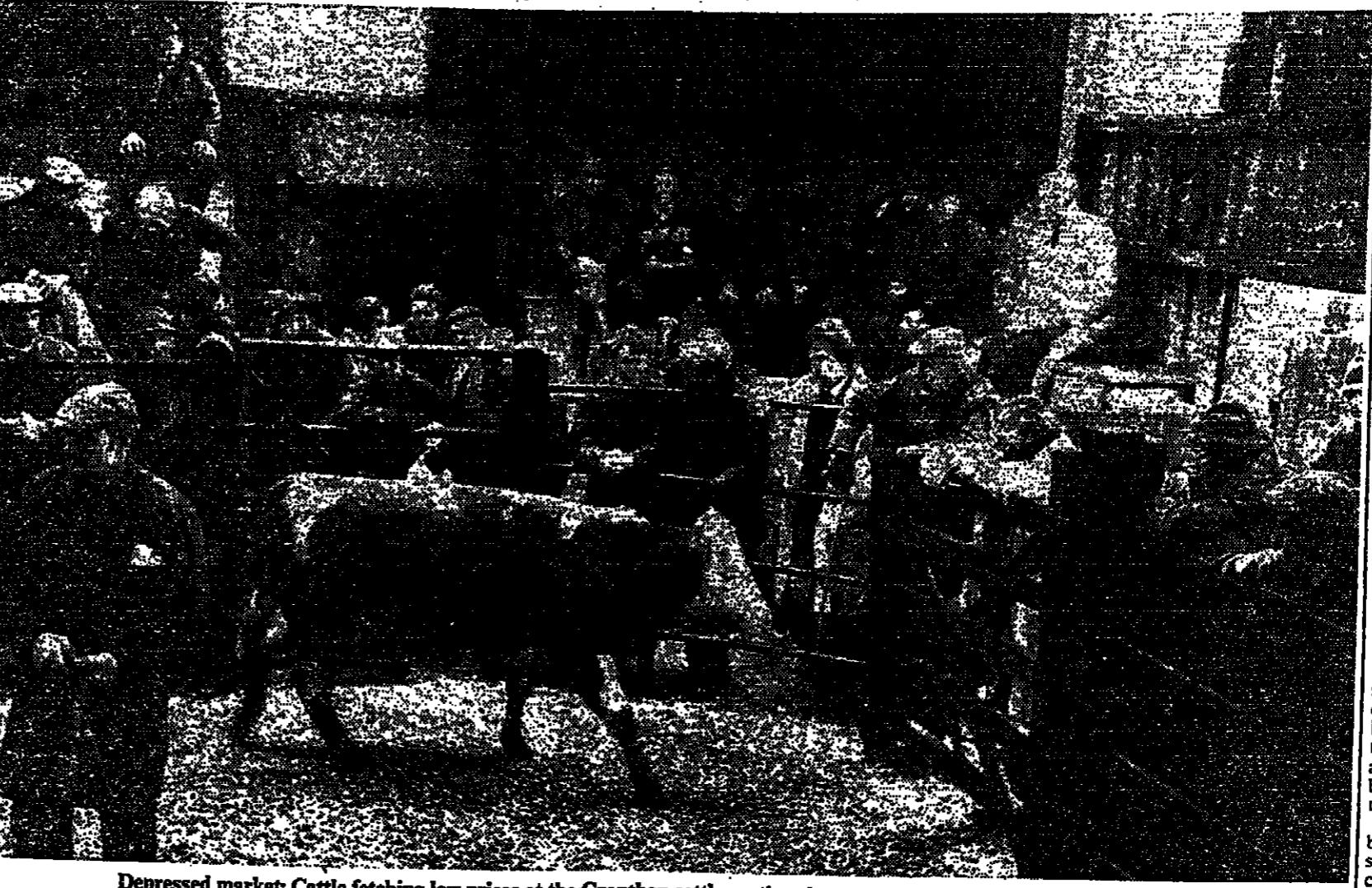
Next in ascending order of disagreement, came the unions'

offer of legally binding "no disruption" agreements, and the union officials appearing inside sensitive government communications centres.

But the main sticking point was seen as the conflict of loyalties alleged by the Government, with Cabinet officials suggesting that non-unionists at Cheltenham would have the same negotiating rights as union members. That was seen by the unions as an attempt to remove most of their powers, so that members would question the value of subscriptions.

The unions claim that fewer than 1,000 of the 7,000 staff at GCHQ have agreed to resign union membership in return for £1,000. Their aim over the next few days will be to ensure that here is no further drift away while talks continue.

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Depressed market: Cattle fetching low prices at the Grantham cattle auction ring yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

Grantham spurns view of privileged farmers

By Colin Hughes

Farmers at market in the Prime Minister's home town, Grantham, gloomily watched the auctioneer's hammer knocking down their sheep, pigs, and cattle at lower than average prices yesterday, as they discussed Mrs Margaret Thatcher's decision to set up a working party to question all their privileges and benefits.

They phlegmatically responded: "It's a fashion, knocking farmers. They come and go. The auctioneer, Mr Peter Whiston, looking at beef heifers as they layed in the ring after being sold for up to 20p per kilo below the fixed EEC price, commented: "The image of the Range Rover farmer growing fat on the taxpayer is a complete fantasy".

The Prime Minister's decision to include agriculture in a review of monopoly powers and advantages signals growing doubt over what even some farmers believe to be excessive privileges.

Mr Richard Body, Conservative MP for Boston, Lincolnshire, has estimated the total cost of agricultural support to

the consumer and taxpayer in Britain at around £3,350m a year. Of that, £1,500m a year is what he calculates as the "indirect tax" paid by the Common Agricultural Policy's import duties, levies, and export subsidies.

Farmers are VAT exempt, incurring a loss in revenue of £300m a year to the Treasury.

Another £200m is "lost" because agricultural land is exempt from rates. Other tax concessions enable farmers to write-off investment in machinery from one year's profit.

Mr Robert Ingamells, a smallholder who part owns and part rents 140 acres of mixed farm in the nearby village of Birston, said: "There are rich farmers, but it's the big ones who benefit. Others have had to overborrow to stay in business, and people like me would be driven out. It would be a similar story to that famous grocer's shop if these benefits were withdrawn."

Mr John Fisher, who rents 560 acres with his father Fred, from the Denton estate at Wellingborough, agreed: "If people want to remove subsidies and support they will have to pay

for it in the shops. There's barely a farmer in the country that could pay it out of their own pockets."

A lingering jealousy lies behind the clash on subsidies, which many farmers can only appreciate by looking at the prices of "corn and horn" chalked on the seller's boards.

Mr Michael Goodacre, who farms cattle, lamb, cereals, and potatoes, said: "It really boils down to arable farmers being protected in the last five years. They have benefited from subsidies, while livestock farmers are paying over the odds for feed."

"If I completely sold up and put my capital in a building society I would be better off than I am now."

However, Lincolnshire farmers, as with others in Britain, have benefited hugely from a welter of grants to build new barns drain land, amalgamate farms, and invest in modern equipment.

Training, research, and professional advice, are provided by the taxpayer, at a cost of about £130m a year. As Mr Body puts it: "Few farmers

nowadays do without an accountant to find their way through all the benefits. None is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture."

Protectionism and state subsidies are archetypes to the new Conservative economics. However, many of the party's voters would have been represented in Grantham's sale hall yesterday. Most doubt whether the Government is ready to take on a thorough unbundling of farmer's privileges.

Mr Roy Chapman, branch secretary of Grantham National Farmer's Union said the reductions in agricultural support have already been heavy. He said: "Since we went into the Common Market the only advantage farmers here have gained is from the Farm and Horticultural Grant Scheme, and that runs out soon. You ask farmers now what benefits they get and they don't know - they call it the CAP: Common Agricultural Policy."

Part of the puzzle is the policy on shortfall prices.

Farmers whose produce sells below the average fixed price get the remainder paid to them by Brussels. That policy, the farmers know, can only continue with fierce protection against foreign imports.

Mr Chapman is unsure.

"Even if there were no import levies and duties, would the price be any lower? Many doubt it." Mr Body's belief that cheaper foodstuffs would enable British farmers to go back to producing quality livestock is hypothetical for the Lincolnshire farmer.

As one cattle breeder put it: "We are already hocking our way through the bad times. Any more costs would break the industry's back." Borrowing is fine for those who own farms, but for the small tenant it is an additional inequality.

Mr Chapman comments: "Perhaps it is a good thing to reappraise it all, so that we can answer the question none of us can answer. Who really benefits - the shoppers and taxpayers, or the farmer who sees his profit shrinking every year?"

Druze find evidence of village massacre

Continued from page 1
by both Phalangist and Druze in the towns south east of the capital.

First reports of a slaughter of Druze at Kfar Matta came on September 5 and the Phalange at first offered to take journalists to the village to prove the claims untrue. At the last moment, however, they cancelled the trip, claiming the area was too dangerous for reporters to enter.

As always in Lebanon, there are unanswered questions. For the past five months, Lebanese Government troops have controlled much of the ruined village. They were driven out two days ago but - if they moved anywhere in that part of the village where corpses were seen lying yesterday - conditions must have been quite horrific for them. Yet many of the bodies were found in fields and had been there so long that bushes had actually grown through the cadavers.

Behind the roomful of bodies, bullet holes could be seen on the wall and several corpses had apparently fused together with age. The film also showed a grassy slope upon which lay a badly decomposed body in a small boy's clothes.

Last September, the Druze said more than a hundred of their people had been killed in Kfar Matta by the Phalange. Yesterday they said they had found 107 bodies. For President Gemayel, fighting to save his presidency with both his Government and army pieces, the discovery of the murders could not come at a worse time.

Until he became President, he was himself a senior official of the Phalange, whose militia carried out the Sabra and Chatila massacre after Israeli troops sent them into the Palestinian camps in 1982. Now the Phalangists are being accused of yet more mass killings.

An official of the International Red Cross confirmed in Beirut last night that delegates of his organization had seen the bodies of civilians lying in the streets of Kfar Matta last September.

"We don't know whether they were killed by shelling or in crossfire but we saw dead people," he said.

"It is beyond our job to investigate whether it is a massacre or not. At the time, the security situation was very bad and for security reasons we could not take them out."

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of World Wildlife Fund International, returns to London after his visit to the headquarters of World Wildlife Fund in Zürich, The Netherlands, arrives (Heathrow 4).

Music

Piano recital by Savory, Art Gallery, Bury St Edmunds, 12.45.

Piano recital by Angela Brownbridge, Holburne Museum, Bath, 7.30.

Orchestral Concert by Northern Sinfonia Orchestra, St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle, 7.30.

General

Hearts and flowers at the Dominican Friary, a spectacular flower festival on the theme of Saint Valentine, by North Ferriby and District Flower Club, Friars Lane, Eastgate, Beverley, North Humberside (until the 19th), 10 to 6.

Last appearance of the Glasgow Paint Studio Co-Operative Press Gang, Gladair Gray and Friends, Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, 7.30.

Exhibitions in progress

Wet Paint - Royal Work; Festival Gallery, 1 Pierpoint Place, Bath Tues to Sat 11 to 5; Sun & Mon (ends March 3).

Mapping the New World; ancient maps and portraits; Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society, Dorset County Museum, Dorchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; Sun 11.30am-2pm (Sundays) (ends March 2).

Action in Sport; by Simon Painter, Helios Pictures, 2 Salisbury Road, Moseley, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 6; closed Sun. (ends April 7).

Art Hall Past and Present; a country house preserved; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (ends April 5).

Food prices

The recently-publicized and contentious subsidies to British sheep farmers have failed to prevent a continuing rise in home-produced lamb prices. In Sainsbury's, a whole leg is £1.86 per lb, and loin chops £2.32 per lb. In contrast, beef, usually a more popular buy at this time of year, anyway, is down to £1.99 for topside and silverside.

The Prime Minister's decision to include agriculture in a review of monopoly powers and advantages signals growing doubt over what even some farmers believe to be excessive privileges.

Roads

Wales and West: A470: 24-hour temporary traffic signs between Plymouth Street, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan and at Ebbw Vale, M5: North and South-bound carriageway lane closures between junctions 8 and 9 due to roadworks.

A470: 24-hour temporary traffic signs; A471: Builth Wells-Brecon Road at Arwood. Powers.

Weather

Northern Scotland will be rather cloudy with isolated light showers, central and Southern Scotland, Northern Ireland, Northern England and western parts of Wales will be rather cloudy with light rain or drizzle dying out.

North: A1: Contraflow on Gathertree to Scotch Corner, Redcar; A689: Graphic lights at Waskerley Bridge, Wolsingham; co Durham, A19/A1046: construction work at Portrack roundabout, north of river Tees, Cleveland.

Scotland: A32: One-lane traffic in Great Western Road between Cromwell Street and Maybole Street, A32: Glasgow; Single-lane traffic with lights 4 miles north of Tarbet. A987: Single-lane traffic with lights between A907 junction and Culaloe reservoir; delays at peak times.

High tides

